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AUTHORITY

**REVENGE OF THE
BOOGY MAN!**

part 1

CHILDHOOD'S END

POWER PACK

INFERNO
CONTINUES



**WELCOME
TO YOUR
NIGHTMARE!**



**STAN
LEE
PRESENTS:**

POWER PACK™



WELCOMING BACK EVER
SO BRIGHTLY:

jon bogdanove

WHO BOTH WROTE AND
PENCILED LIGHTLY

stan drake

WHO FINISHED IN
INK TIGHTLY

don hudson

INKING THE BACK-
GROUNDS SLIGHTLY

glynis oliver

WHO STILL
COLORS BRIGHTLY

carl potts

EDITING
NIGHTLY

tom defalco

EDITOR IN CHIEF
POLITELY

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REVENGE ^{OF} THE BOOGYMAN

PART 1

PRESENTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION--ONE DOUGLAS CARMODY, ALIAS "THE BOOGYMAN," AN EX-BUSINESSMAN WHO, FOR THE PAST YEAR, HAS HAD ONLY ONE AIM IN LIFE -- TO DESTROY FOUR CHILDREN WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS TO BE MISTAKEN FOR MUTANTS.

FOR YOU SEE, DOUGLAS CARMODY IS A BIGOT--ONE OF THAT PECULIAR BREED OF HUMAN THAT HATES AND FEARS ANY PERSON, GROUP OR THING THAT SMACKS OF BEING DIFFERENT.

--IN THIS CASE, MUTANTKIND--PEOPLE WHOSE RADICAL GENETIC STRUCTURE GIVES THEM UNUSUAL ABILITIES.

THE FACT THAT THE FOUR POWER CHILDREN ARE NOT GENUINE MUTANTS IS NO DETERRENT TO MR. CARMODY, BECAUSE BIGOTRY IS A BLIND OBSESSION.

PORTRAIT OF A BLINDMAN, THEN-- A MAN CONSUMED BY HATRED, WHO UNTIL MOMENTS AGO, THOUGHT HE WAS IN REACH OF HIS GOAL-- BUT NOW FINDS HIMSELF PLUNGING IN SLOW MOTION THROUGH LIMBO-- AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION NOT ONLY OF TIME AND SPACE, BUT OF HORROR--

A PLACE THAT FOR DOUGLAS CARMODY, COULD WELL PROVE FAR WORSE THAN ANY "TWILIGHT ZONE."

PAR MOE BIAS

GNAHGG!

DOUGLAS-- HOW
NICE OF YOU TO
COME! SO GLAD I
COULD BE HERE
FOR YOUR ARRIVAL!

I TAKE IT THIS MEANS YOU
SHALL BE *UNABLE* TO COMPLETE
OUR *BARGAIN*, TO DELIVER TO ME
THE MUTANT EARTHLING *HUMAN-
CHILDREN* I WISH TO *PURCHASE*?
YES? WE MUST MAKE *ALTERNATE*
ARRANGEMENTS.

COMMME
TO USSSS
FFAT
MORSSSEL--

GNAGH!
THE *SMELL!*--
TH-THIS CAN'T
BE *R-REAL!*

FFAT MORSEL
VERY UGLY!--
TASSTES GOOD
AND GREEEEZY,
I THINKS...



DOUGLAS--
AREN'T YOU
LISTENING
TO ME!?

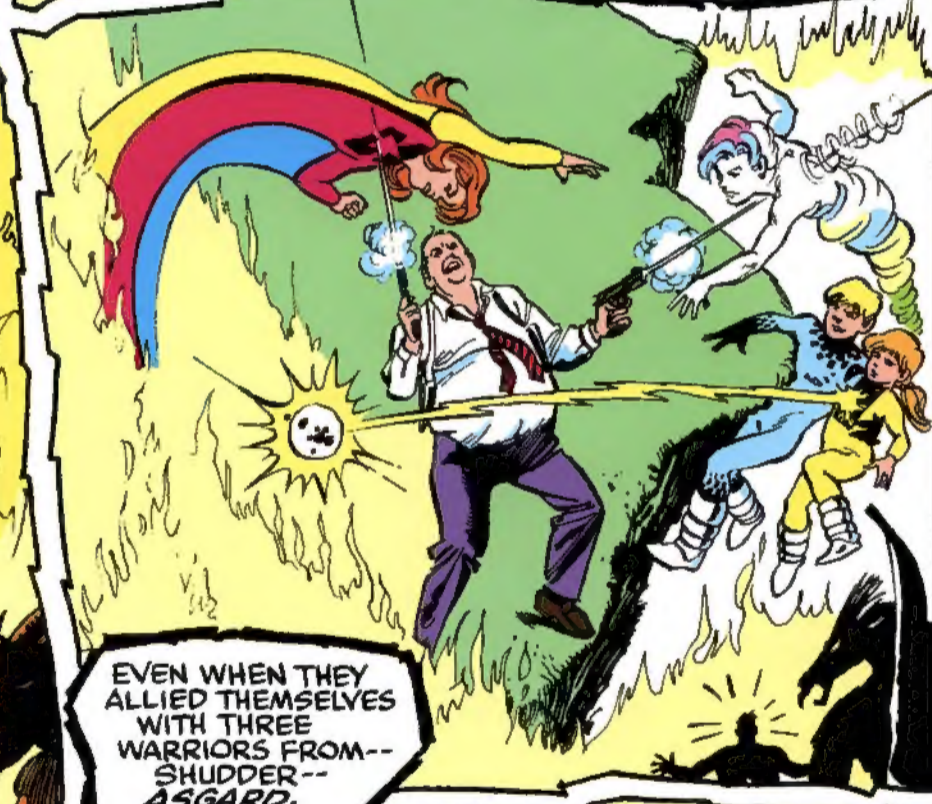
GAAHH!

MY NAME IS
N'ASTIHR,
REMEMBER?
YOU ARE IN
MY WORLD
NOW.

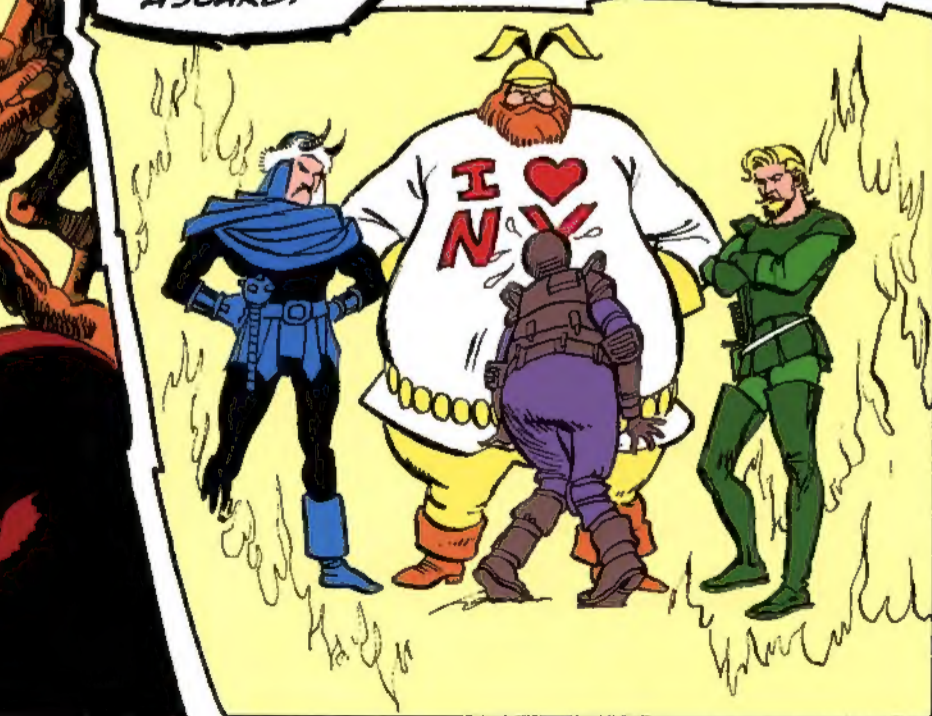


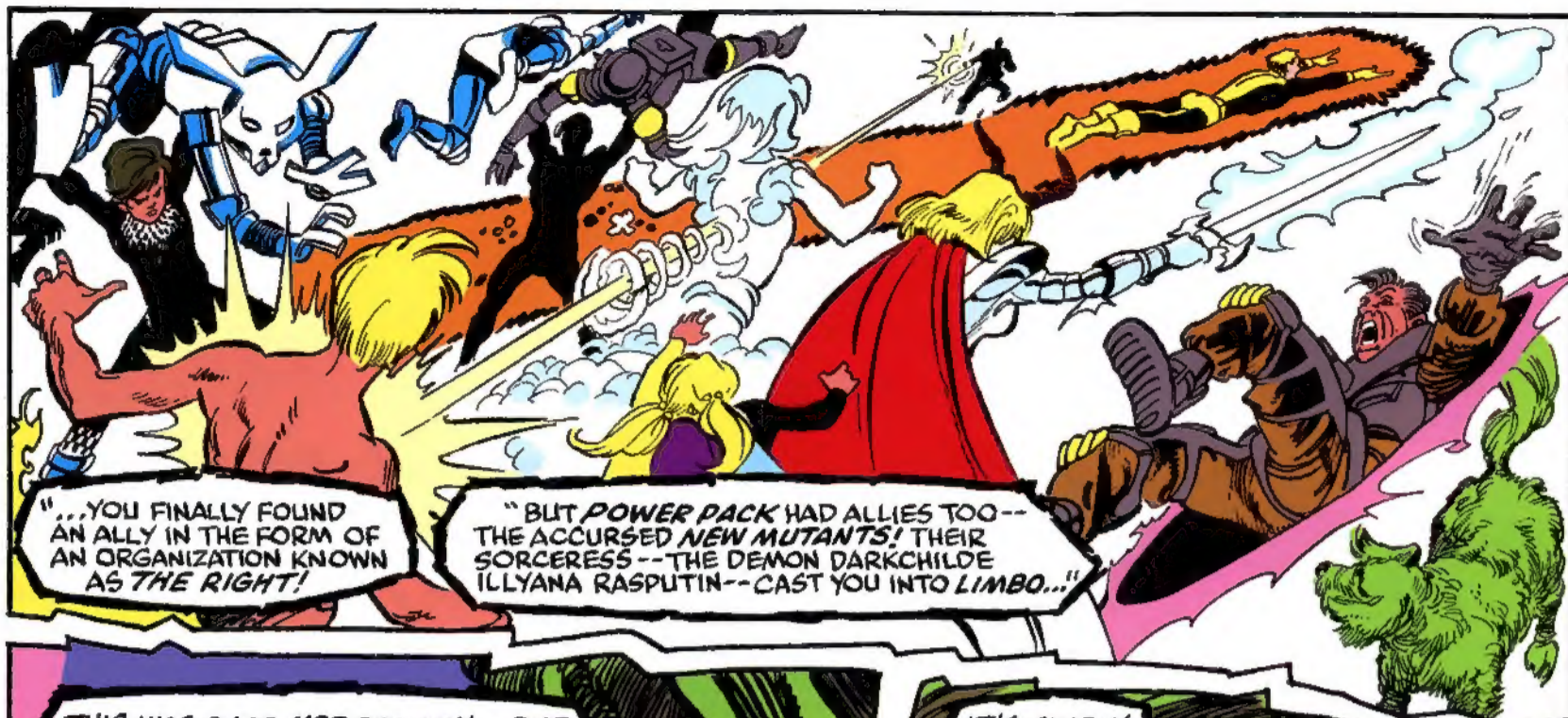
YOU SEEM A BIT DISORIENTED,
DOUGLAS -- LET'S REFRESH YOUR
MEMORY -- SHALL WE? -- LET'S LOOK
BACK TO WHEN YOU FIRST MET
THESE FOUR CHILDREN YOU
CALL POWER PACK...

FUNNY HOW NO ONE ELSE
SEEMED TO REALIZE WHAT
A "THREAT" THEY WERE --
YOU HAD TO FIGHT THEM
ALL BY YOURSELF!



EVEN WHEN THEY
ALLIED THEMSELVES
WITH THREE
WARRIORS FROM--
SHUDDER--
ASGARD.





"...YOU FINALLY FOUND AN ALLY IN THE FORM OF AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS *THE RIGHT*!

"BUT *POWER PACK* HAD ALLIES TOO-- THE ACCURSED *NEW MUTANTS*! THEIR SORCERESS--THE DEMON *DARKCHILDE* *ILLYANA RASPUTIN*--CAST YOU INTO *LIMBO*..."

THIS WAS ONCE *HER* DOMAIN!-- BUT SHE IS *LOSING* HER POWER OVER US. *LIMBO* IS RULED BY *OTHERS* NOW, AND SOMEDAY SOON--IT MAY BE *MINE*!

IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF...

...CHEWING AWAY ANYTHING HUMAN!...

IN SOME SMALL WAY, YOU MAY YET SERVE TO AID ME IN MY *SCHEMES*-- BY JOINING MY *MINIONS*!

I HAVE THE *POWER* TO *CHANGE* YOU INTO ONE OF US, DOUGLAS.

YEEAARRRGH...

MY, BUT YOU ACTUALLY DO TASTE RATHER GREEEEZY!--

IT'S A LITTLE
EARLY FOR SUCH
A HEAT WAVE...

...WHEN THE AIR SETTLES LIKE A HOT BLANKET OF ASH-
CAKED SUET, TRANSFORMING NEW YORK INTO A SMUDGE-
POT OF SMOKE, HUMAN SWEAT, AND SEWAGE-- A CITY CHOKING,
DROWNING IN A MORASS OF ITS OWN EFFLUVIA.

JUST DOWN THE HILL FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
WHERE HARLEM MEETS THE UPPER WEST SIDE, THE
STREETS SMOLDER IN THE MUFFLING SHADOW OF
THE IRT. EVEN THE SOUNDS OF TRAFFIC ARE BENT
AND STIFLED INTO VAGUE AND DISTANT STRAINS
OF SHARPS AND FLATS.

HEAPS OF GAS-BLOATED
GREEN PLASTIC BAGS,
LEAKING THE STICKY FER-
MENTED JUICES OF A
WEEK'S UNCOLLECTED
GARBAGE, MAKE A
SINGLE-FILE, WALLED
OBSTACLE COURSE OF
THE SIDEWALK. VILE
BLACKWATER SLUICES
UNDERFOOT FROM SOME
IGNORED, BROKEN SEWER
LINE.

AMIDST THE NOXIOUS REFUSE,
PEOPLE PERCH ON BROWNSTONE
STOOPS IN VAIN ATTEMPTS TO
ESCAPE ENTOMBMENT IN OVEN-
HOT BUILDINGS.

OTHER PEOPLE FILE THROUGH
THE STREETS IN A LURCHING,
LEADEN, SLOW-MOTION BALLET,
--SOME FRANTICALLY LOOKING
FOR ESCAPE, OTHERS FOR
VIOLENT DIVERSION, AND
SOME...

...JUST TO GO
HOME.

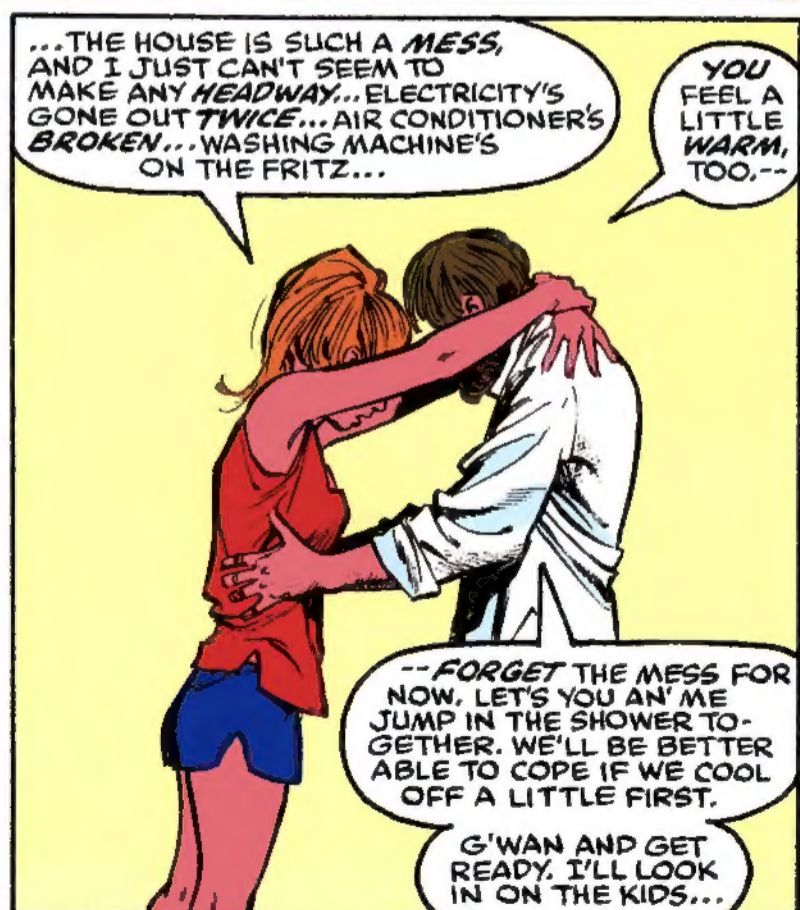
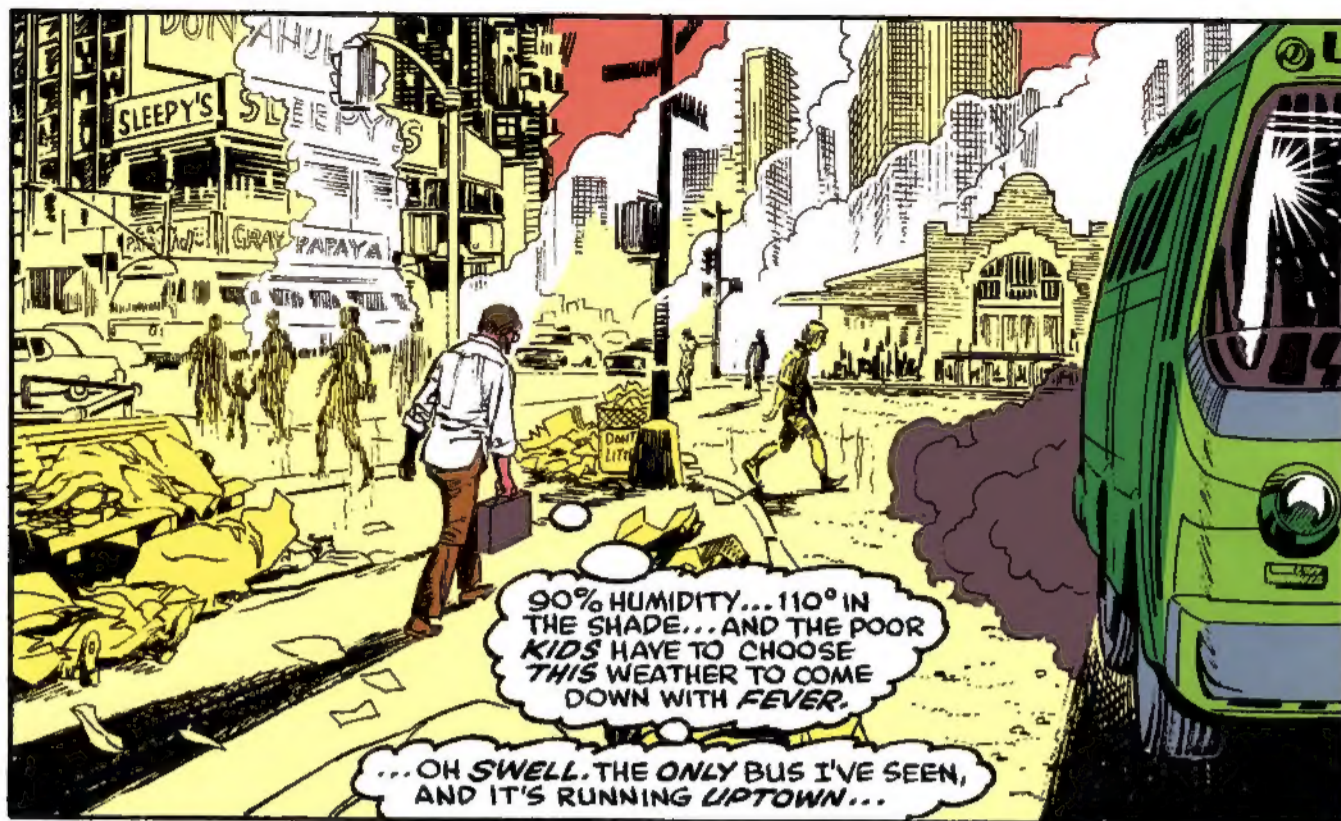
FOR AN EXHAUSTED PROF.
JIM POWER, IT IS AN
EFFORT TO PRESS THROUGH
THE SOOTY, GELATINOUS AIR.
BREATHING IT IS LIKE
BREATHING DIRTY MOTOR
OIL. THE AIRBORNE PARTICU-
LATE POLLUTION CLINGS TO
HIS SODDEN, KNOTTED
CLOTHING. SILTING INTO THE
PORES OF HIS SKIN, IT
BURNS HIS CHEEKS, EYES
AND LUNGS LIKE AN ACID
SANDSTORM.

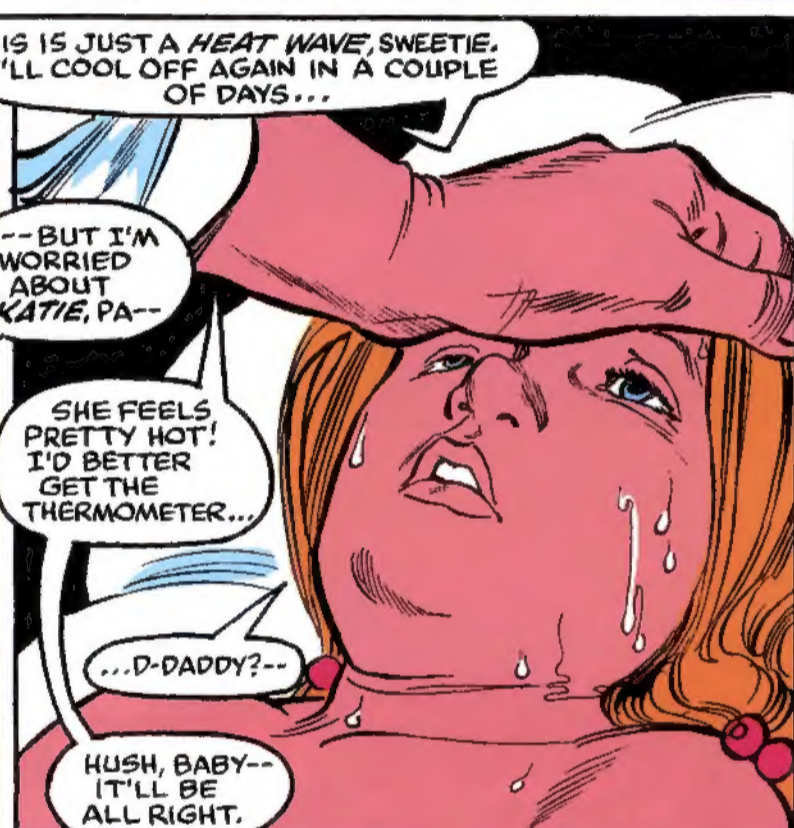
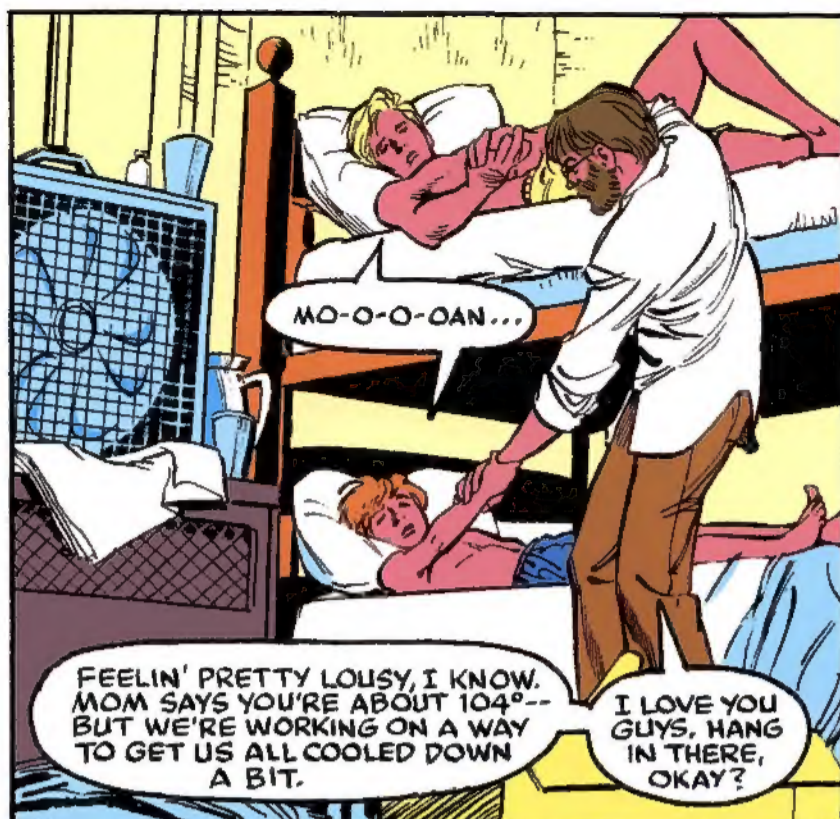
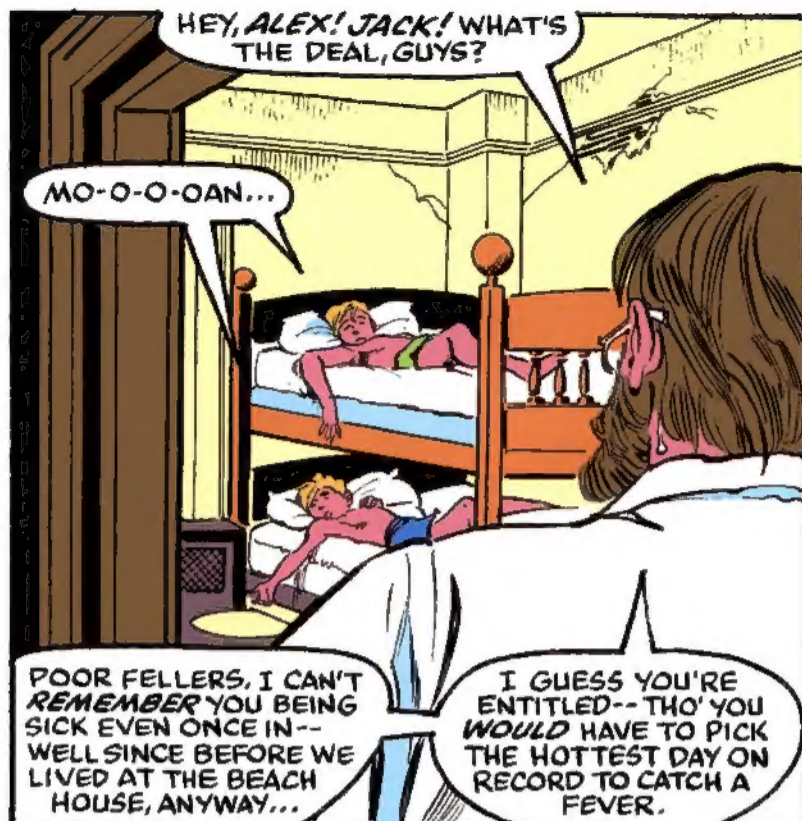
IT'S BEEN A
BAD WEEK...

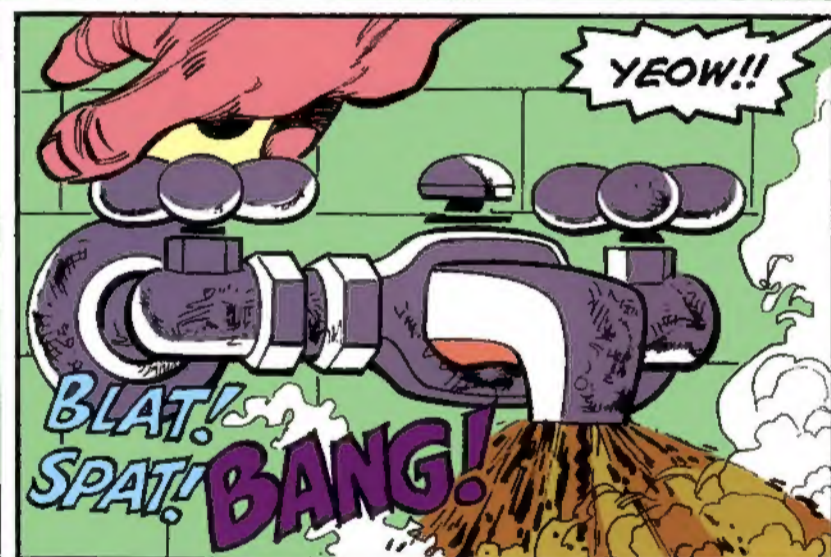
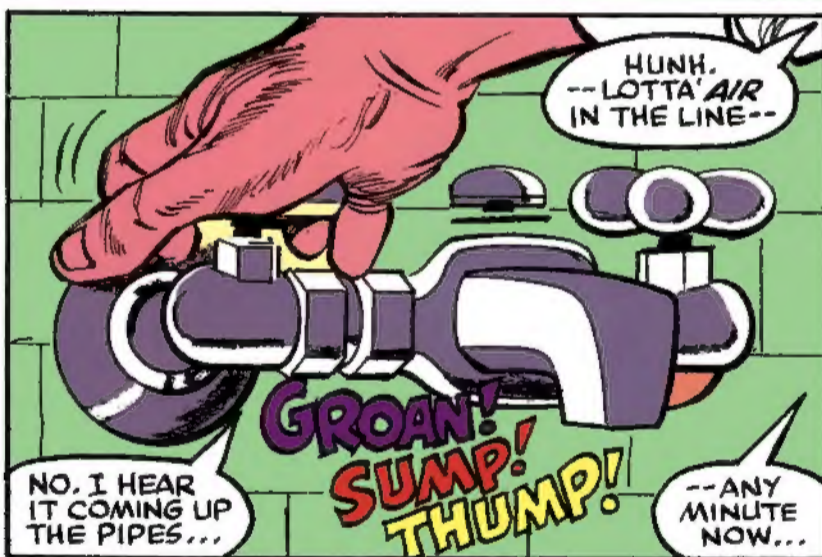
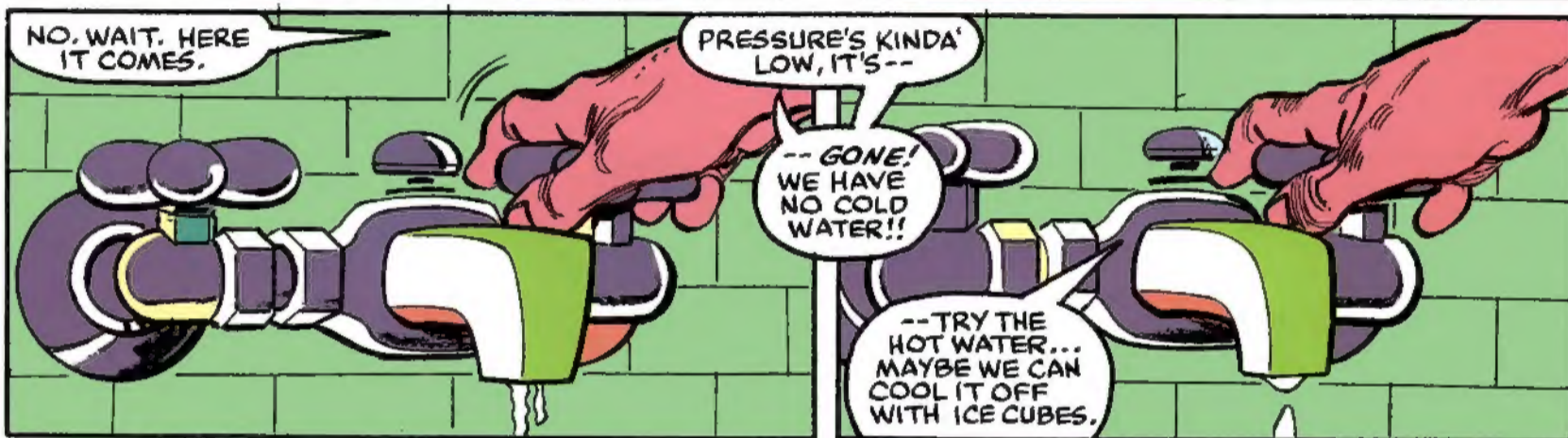
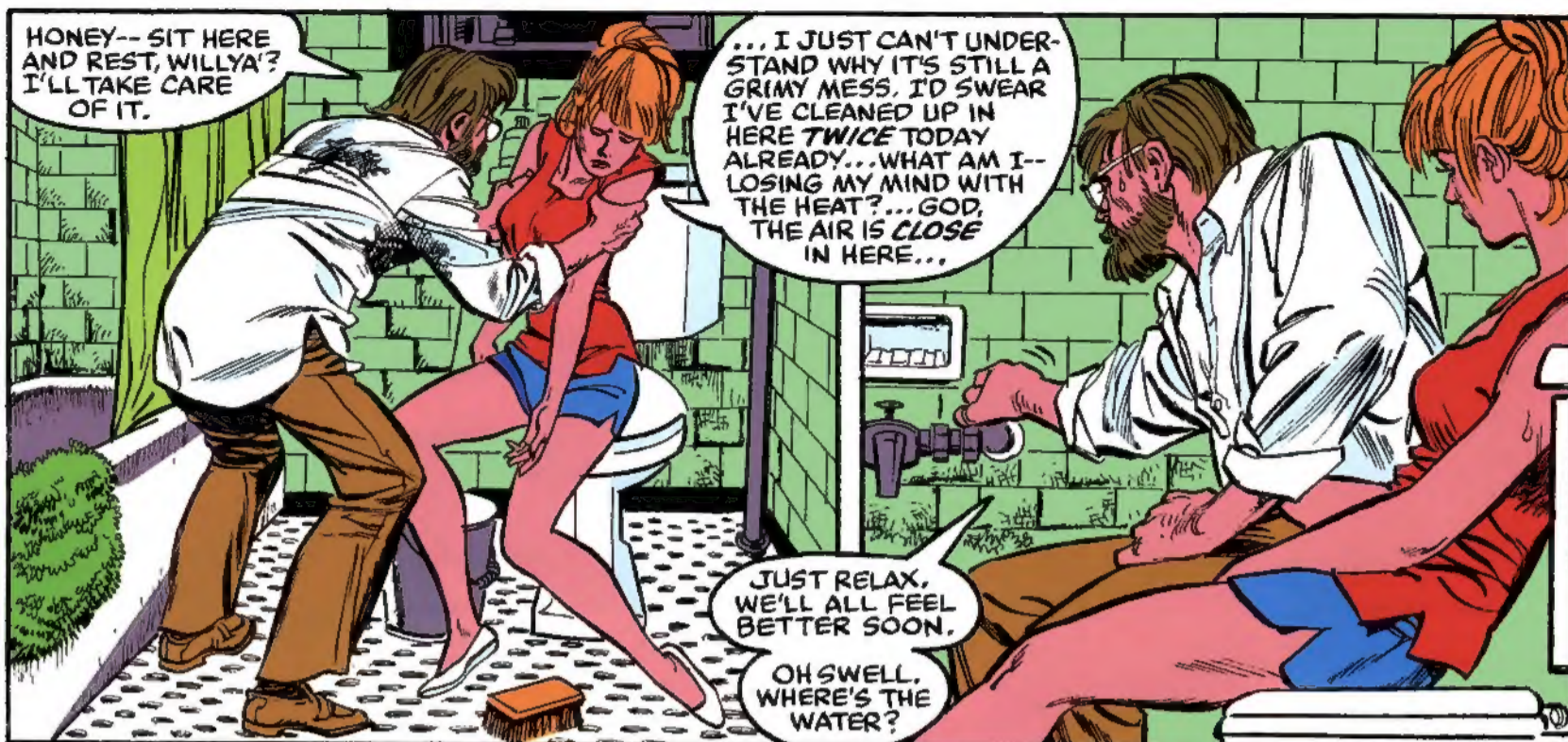
FUNDING CUTBACKS AT THE NSF* THREATEN HIS
RESEARCH GRANT... THE COOLING SYSTEM IN
HIS COLUMBIA LAB HAS BEEN OUT ALL WEEK,
AND THE UNRELENTING HEAT CAUSED COM-
PUTER FAILURE AND DESTROYED TWO
MONTHS' WORK.

*NATIONAL
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION

YET, HIS MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN
IS FOR HIS FAMILY...



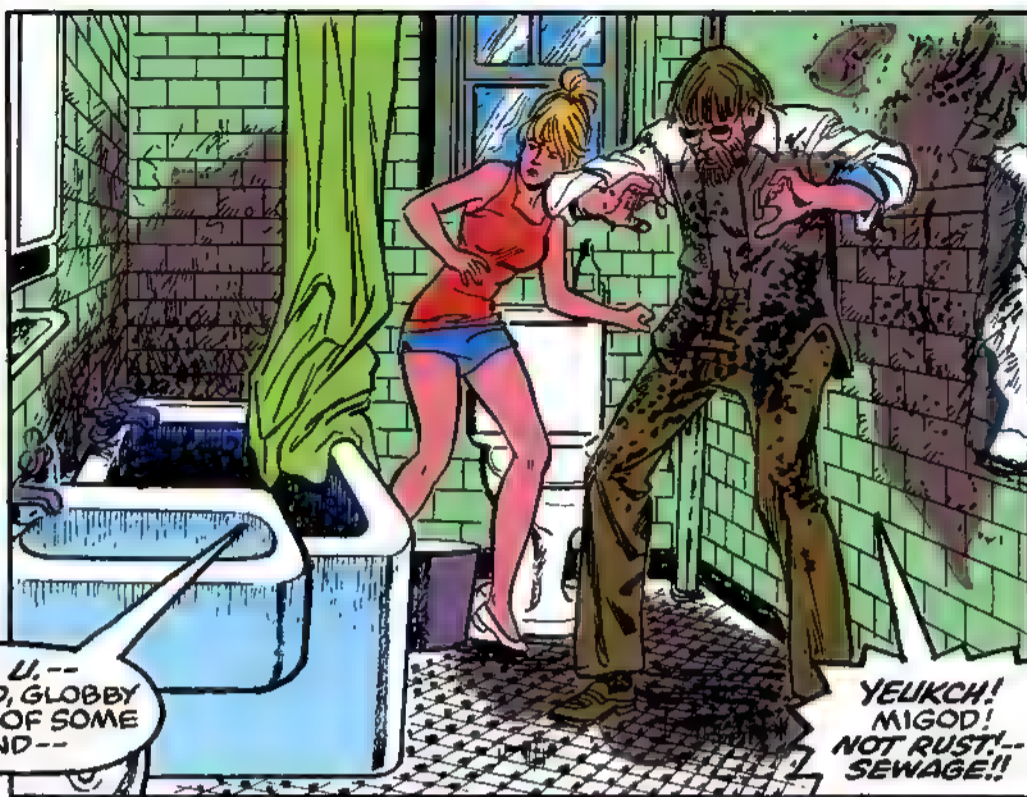






THERE!
IT'S OFF!

P. U.--
HORRID, GLOBBY
RUST OF SOME
KIND--



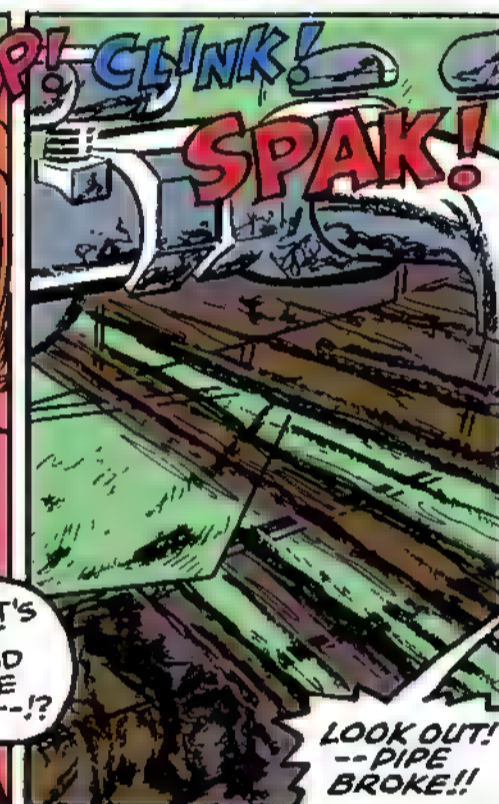
YEUKCH!
MIGOD!
NOT RUST!--
SEWAGE!!



HOW COULD CITY SEWAGE
GET INTO OUR HOT WATER
LINE! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

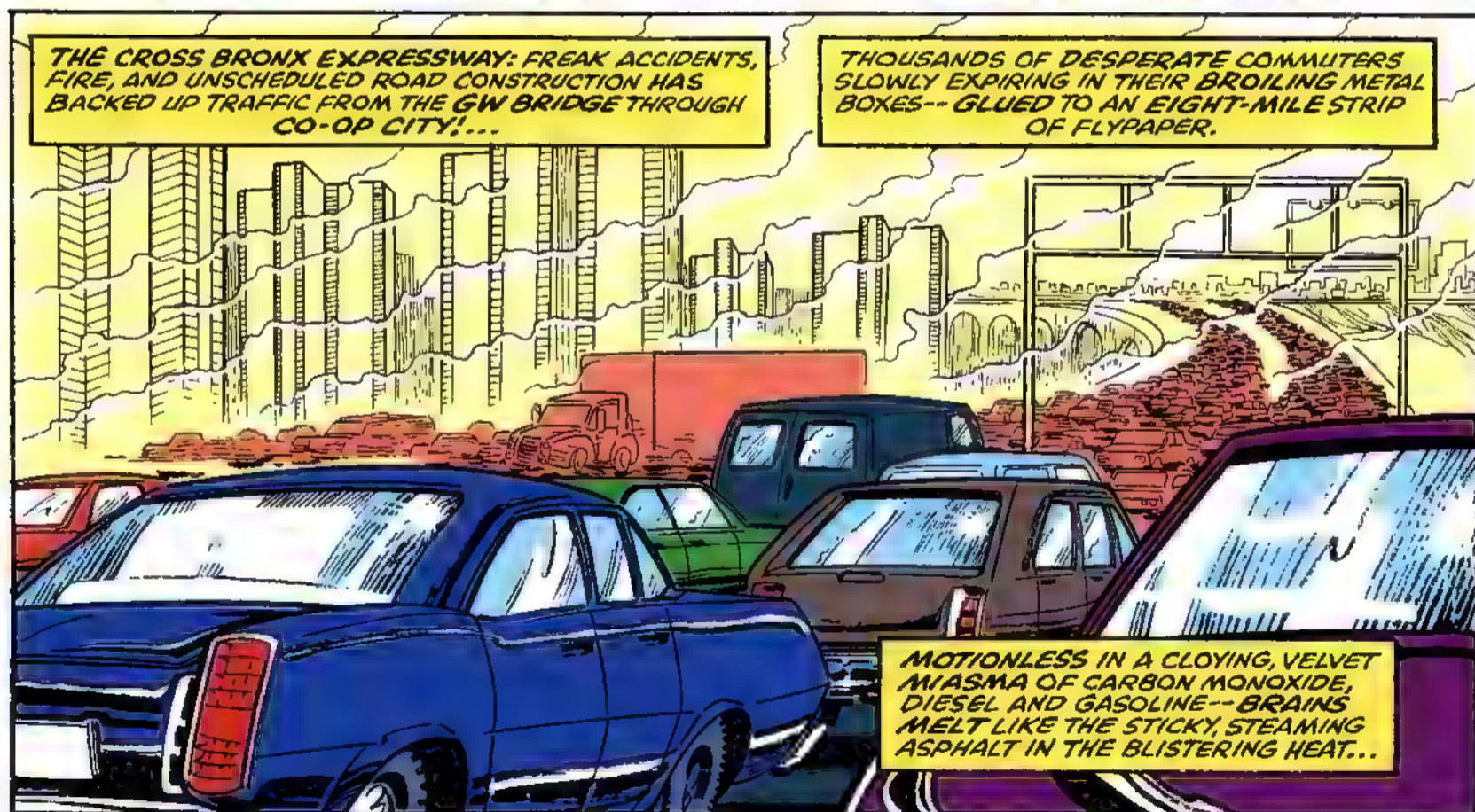
THERE COULD BE
HEPATITIS AND LORD
KNOWS--WHAT IN THIS!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO
CLEAN IT UP!!?

WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND
IN THE
WALL--!?



POP! CLINK!
SPAK!

LOOK OUT!
--PIPE
BROKE!!



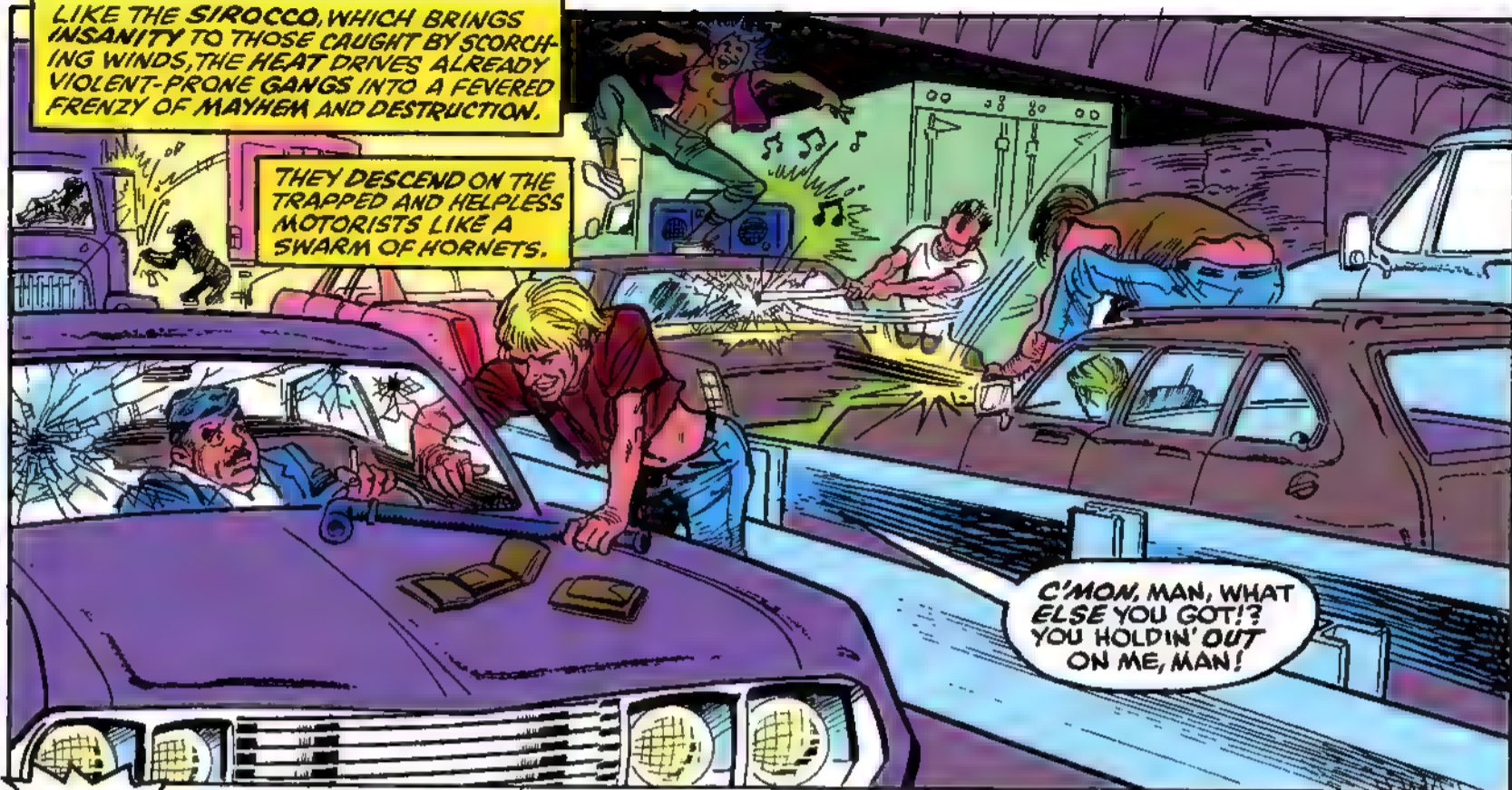
THE CROSS BRONX EXPRESSWAY: FREAK ACCIDENTS,
FIRE, AND UNSCHEDULED ROAD CONSTRUCTION HAS
BACKED UP TRAFFIC FROM THE GW BRIDGE THROUGH
CO-OP CITY!...

THOUSANDS OF DESPERATE COMMUTERS
SLOWLY EXPIRING IN THEIR BROILING METAL
BOXES-- GLUED TO AN EIGHT-MILE STRIP
OF FLYPAPER.

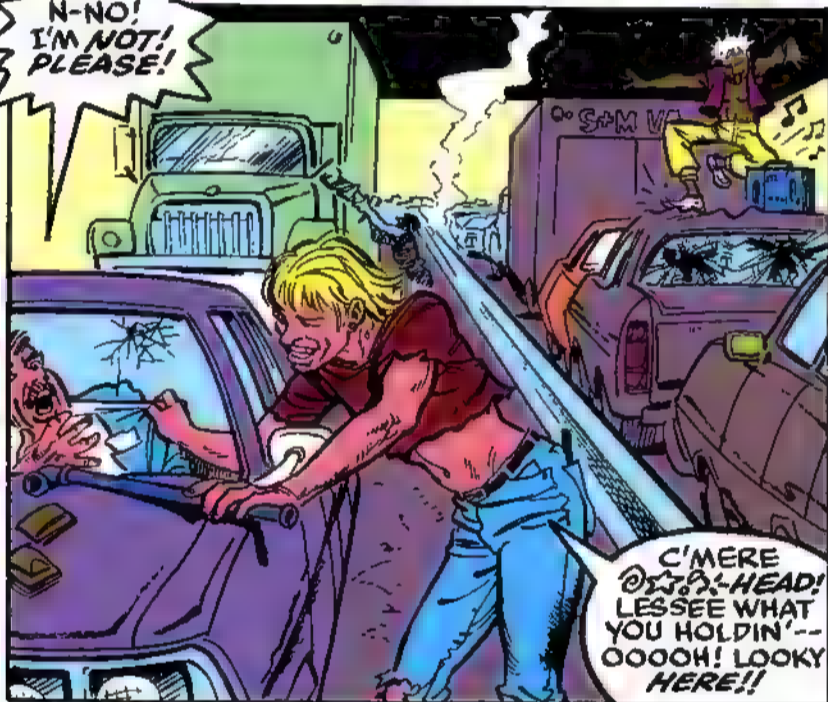
MOTIONLESS IN A CLOYING, VELVET
MIASMA OF CARBON MONOXIDE,
DIESEL AND GASOLINE--BRAINS
MELT LIKE THE STICKY, STEAMING
ASPHALT IN THE BLISTERING HEAT...

LIKE THE SIROCCO, WHICH BRINGS INSANITY TO THOSE CAUGHT BY SCORCHING WINDS, THE HEAT DRIVES ALREADY VIOLENT-PRONE GANGS INTO A FEVERED FRENZY OF MAYHEM AND DESTRUCTION.

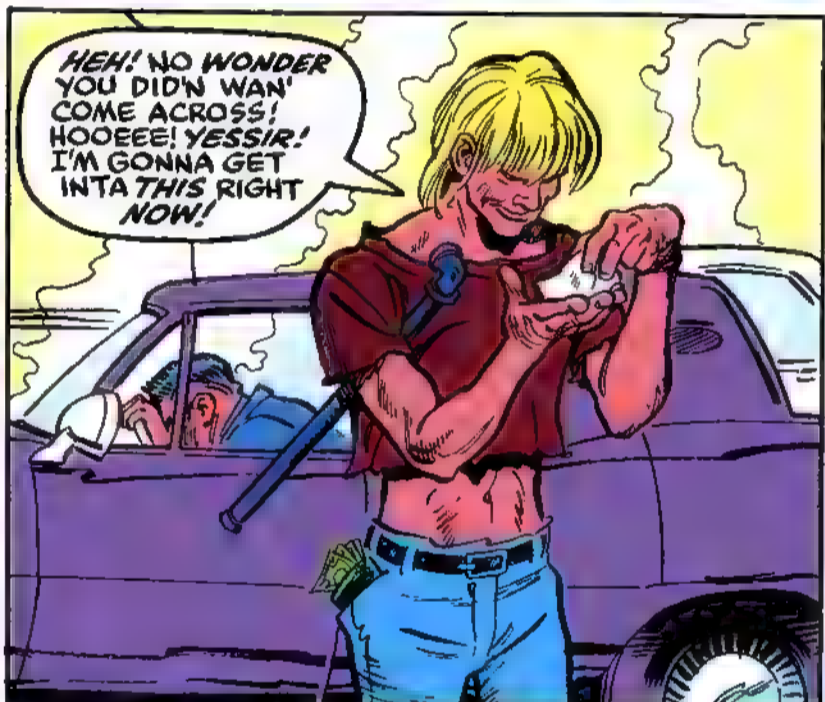
THEY DESCEND ON THE TRAPPED AND HELPLESS MOTORISTS LIKE A SWARM OF HORNETS.



N-NO!
I'M NOT!
PLEASE!



HEH! NO WONDER
YOU DIDN' WAN'
COME ACROSS!
HOOEEE! YESSIR!
I'M GONNA GET
INTA THIS RIGHT
NOW!

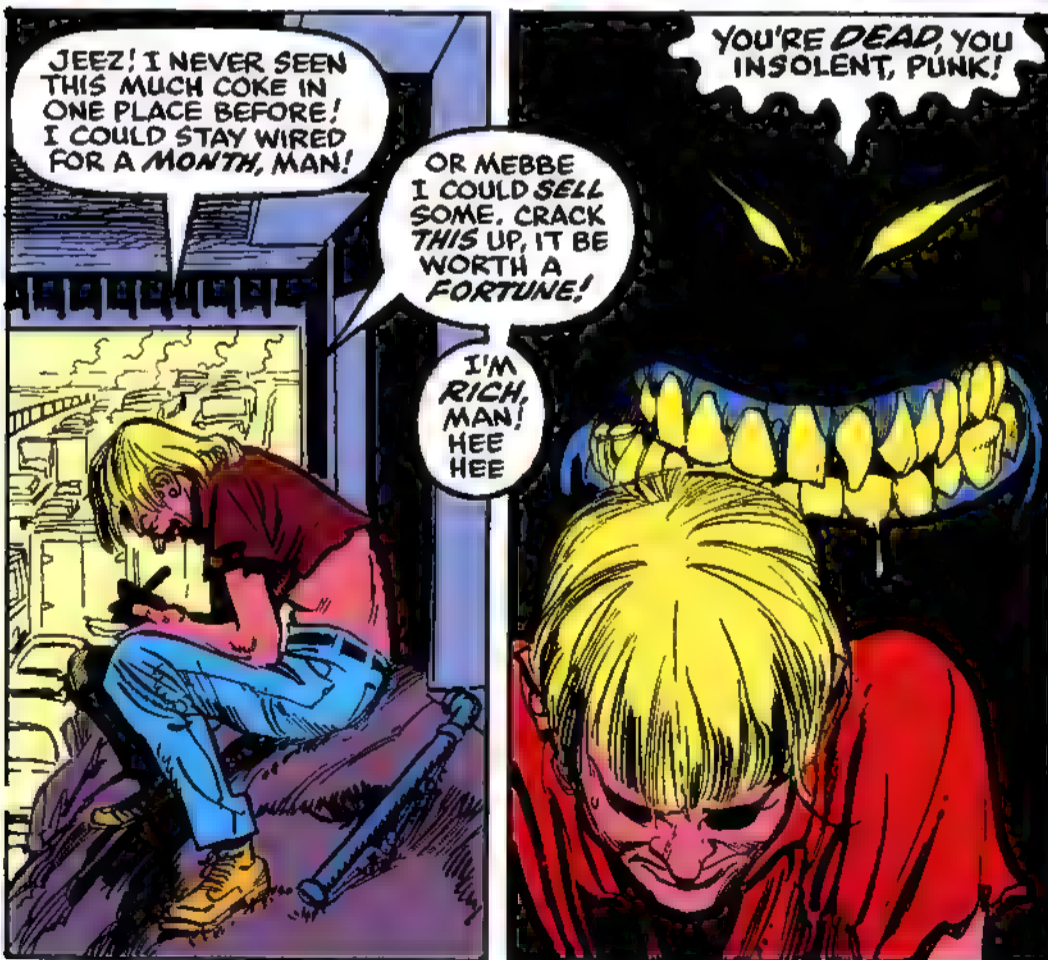


JEEZ! I NEVER SEEN
THIS MUCH COKE IN
ONE PLACE BEFORE!
I COULD STAY WIRED
FOR A MONTH, MAN!

OR MEBBE
I COULD SELL
SOME. CRACK
THIS UP, IT BE
WORTH A
FORTUNE!

I'M
RICH,
MAN!
HEE HEE

YOU'RE DEAD, YOU
INSOLENT, PUNK!

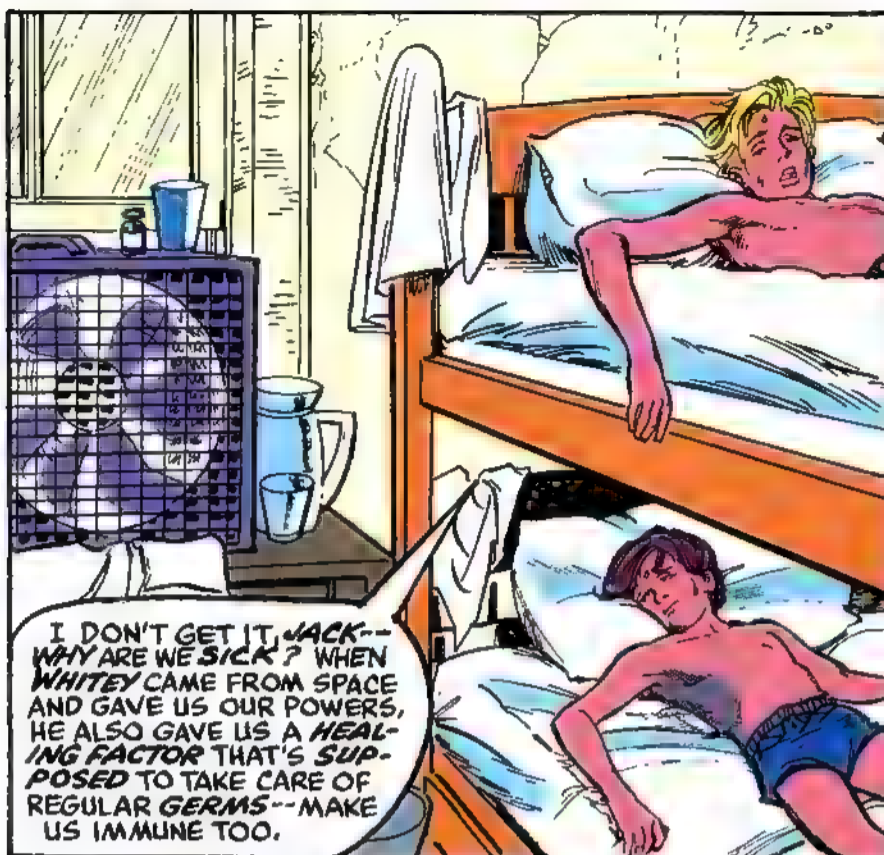


...PREYING ON YOUR
FELLOW HUMANS!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE
TO THE SPECIES!

POP! GLUTCH!

YAA--*





I DON'T GET IT, JACK-- WHY ARE WE SICK? WHEN WHITEY CAME FROM SPACE AND GAVE US OUR POWERS, HE ALSO GAVE US A HEALING FACTOR THAT'S SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF REGULAR GERMS--MAKE US IMMUNE TOO.

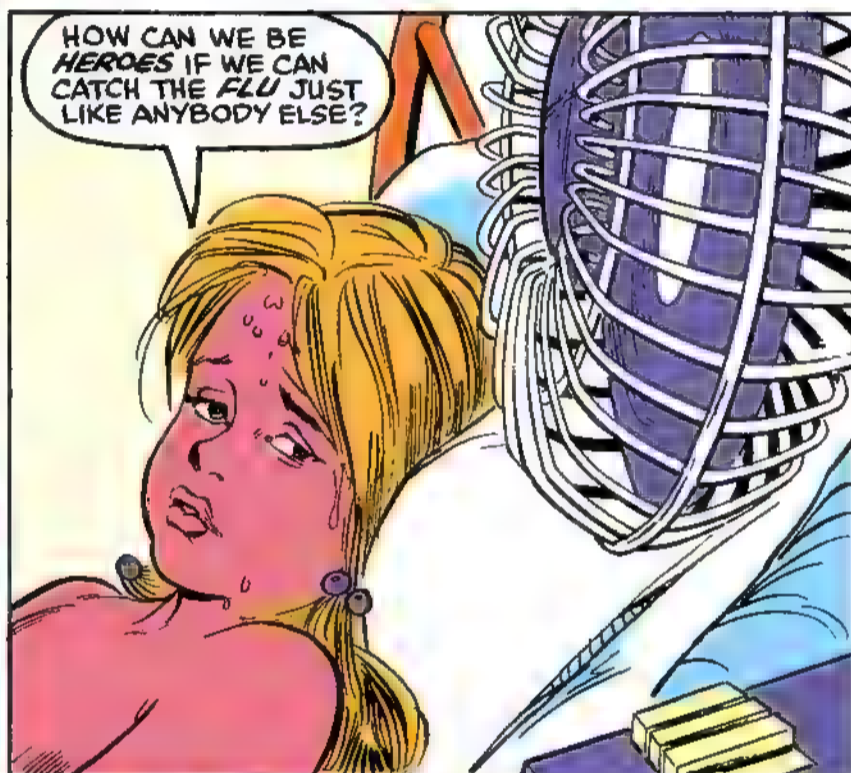


MAYBE THIS ISN'T A REGULAR GERM. MAYBE IT'S LIKE WHEN PESTILENCE TOUCHED KATIE AND MADE US SICK.* WE GOT BETTER THAT TIME BY COMBINING OUR HEALING POWERS.

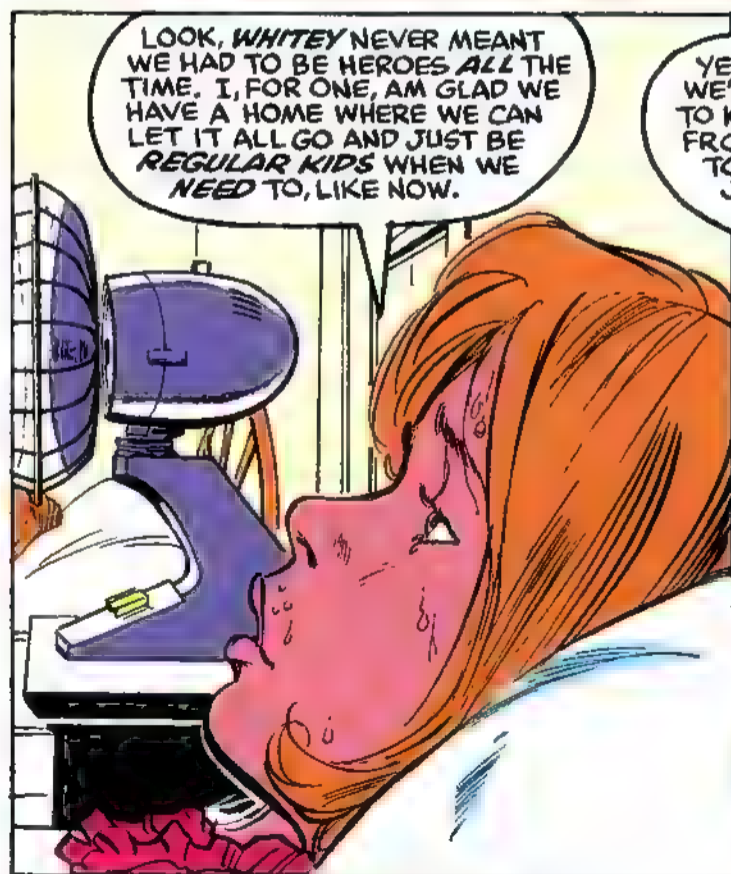
*SEE ISH #35.



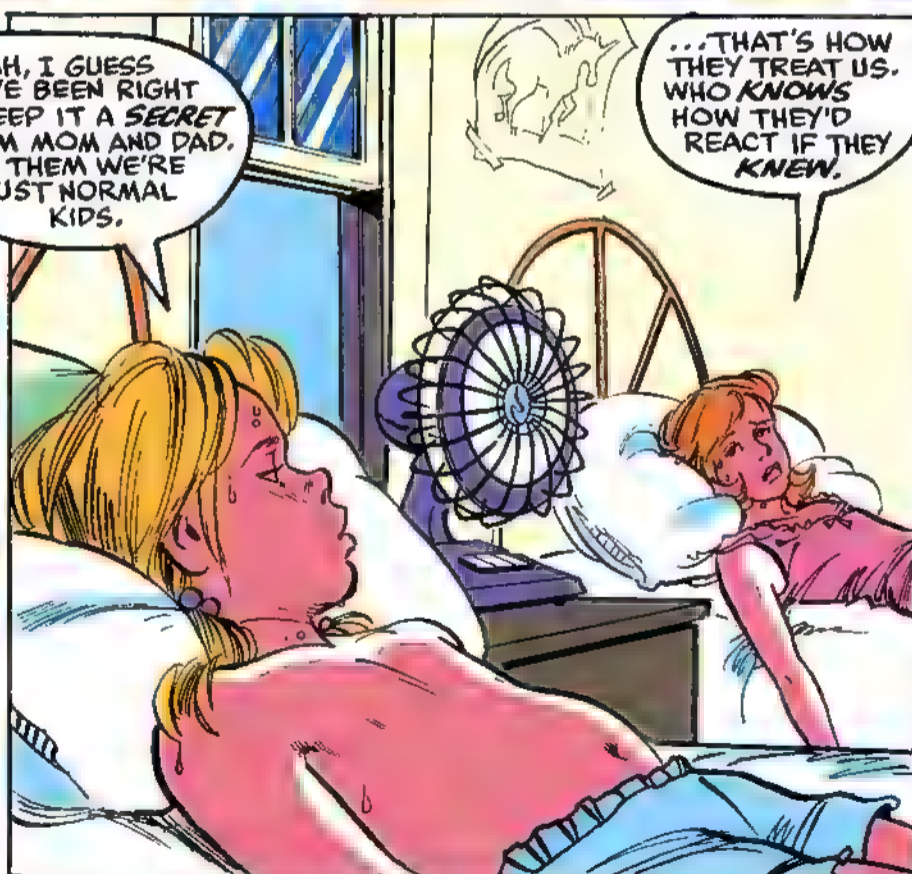
YEAH, BUT WE HAVE TO GET IN A CIRCLE TO DO THAT AND USE OUR POWERS, AND MOM AND DAD ARE HERE. THEY'D GET SUSPICIOUS. BESIDES, PESTILENCE IS DEAD. THIS IS PROBABLY JUST A FORTY-EIGHT-HOUR BUG OR SOMETHING.



HOW CAN WE BE HEROES IF WE CAN CATCH THE FLU JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE?



LOOK, WHITEY NEVER MEANT WE HAD TO BE HEROES ALL THE TIME. I, FOR ONE, AM GLAD WE HAVE A HOME WHERE WE CAN LET IT ALL GO AND JUST BE REGULAR KIDS WHEN WE NEED TO, LIKE NOW.



YEAH, I GUESS WE'VE BEEN RIGHT TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM MOM AND DAD. TO THEM WE'RE JUST NORMAL KIDS.

...THAT'S HOW THEY TREAT US. WHO KNOWS HOW THEY'D REACT IF THEY KNEW.

MEANWHILE, THE CROSS-BRONX EXPRESSWAY:

ARGGGH!

IT'S GOT ME. IT'S--

-- A WAR FOR THE PURITY OF HUMAN KIND AGAINST THE CREEPING MUTANT MENACE!!!

AAAAA--GRGLE--

THAT'S RIGHT, BUDDY. YOU SHOW 'EM! PUT THE FEAR A GOD INTO TH' LITTLE COMMIES!!

-- DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE THAT!?

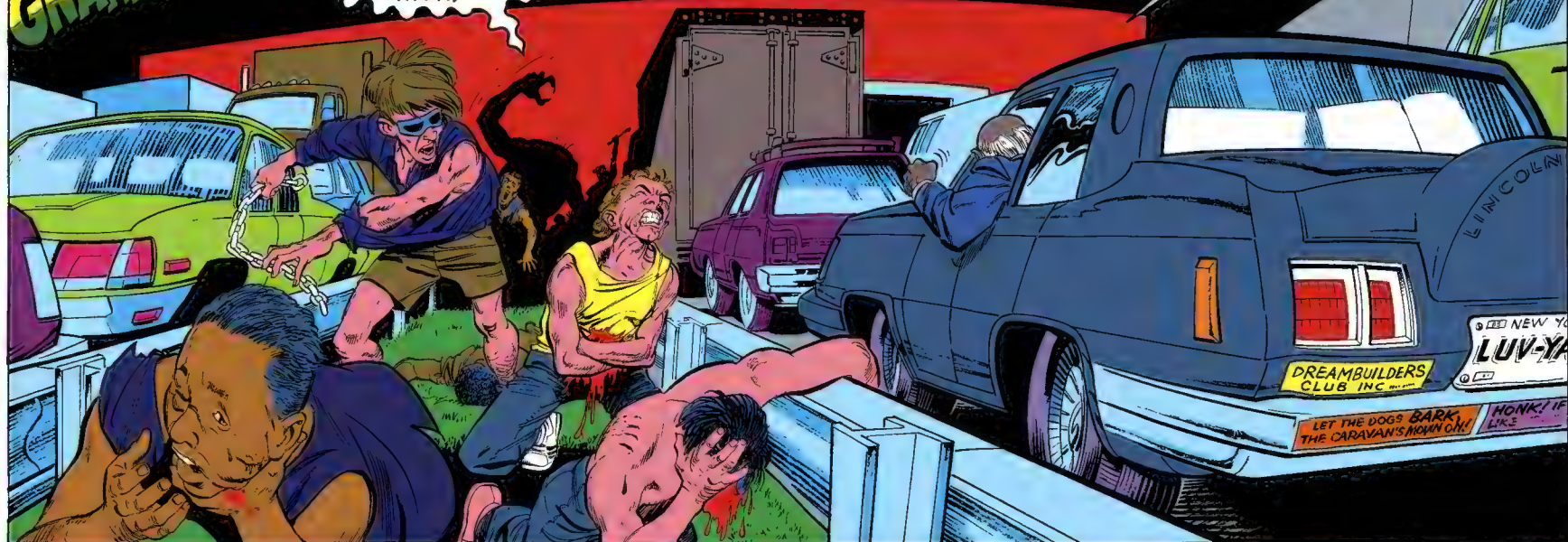
-- NO CONSIDERATION FOR THE SENSIBILITIES OF NORMAL, DECENT PEOPLE! NO REGARD FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE SPECIES! DON'T YOU KNOW WE'RE AT WAR!?

YOU DISGUST ME, YOU YOUNG HOODLUMS WITH YOUR LOUD MUSIC AND FREAKISH HAIRCUTS! NO THOUGHT FOR YOUR APPEARANCE AT ALL-- AS THOUGH YOU DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK!

RUN YOU GUYS!

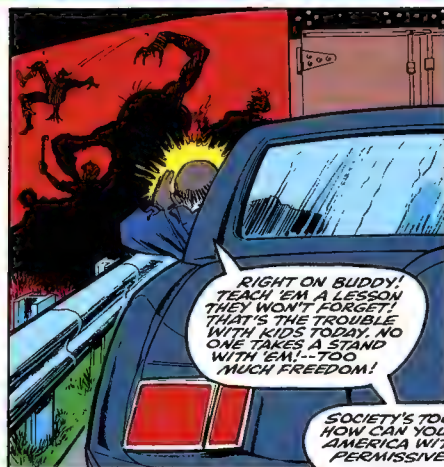
IT'S GOIN' BERSERK!

YAAA!
GNAAH!



THE LAST THING WE CAN AFFORD IS SLACKERS IN OUR OWN RANKS! AND DOUGLAS M. CARMODY HAS NO PATIENCE FOR SLACKERS!!

-- SO IF YOUR OWN PARENTS DON'T CARE ENOUGH TO STRAIGHTEN YOU OUT -- I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF!

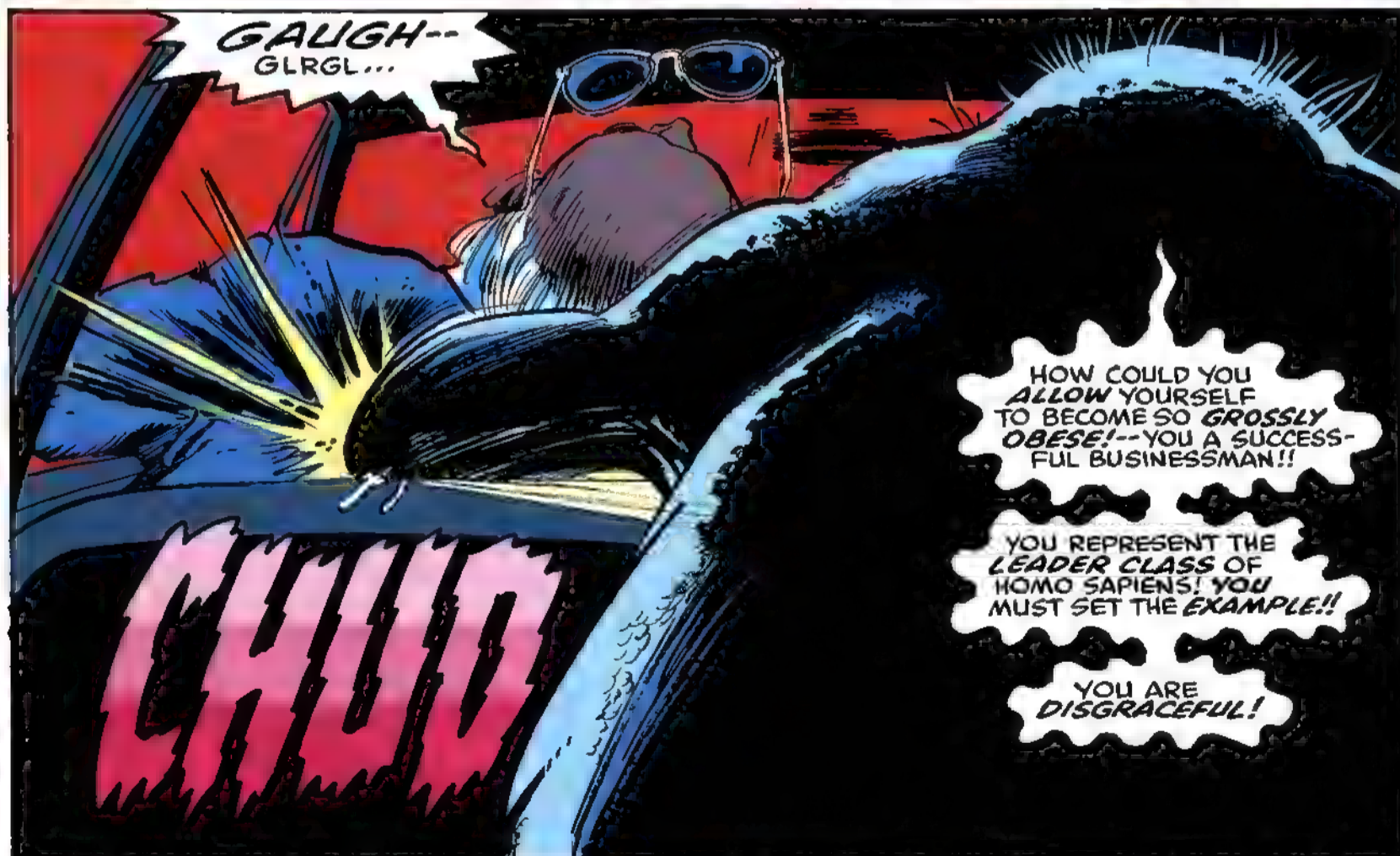


RIGHT ON BUDDY! TEACH 'EM A LESSON THEY WON'T FORGET! THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH KIDS TODAY. NO ONE TAKES A STAND WITH 'EM! -- TOO MUCH FREEDOM!

SOCIETY'S TOO PERMISSIVE. NOW CAN YOU HAVE A FREE AMERICA WITH SUCH A PERMISSIVE SOCIETY!?!?



AN' DRUGS! -- YEAH! IT'S DRUGS TOO! WE GOTTA GET TOUGH ON THESE DRUGS!

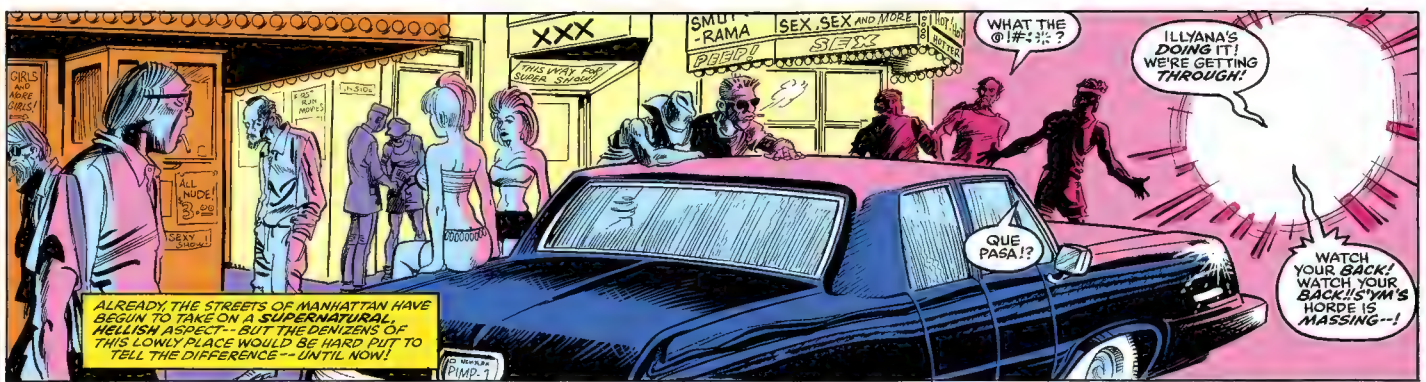




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I'VE GOT **KATY** SUCKING ON **ICE CUBES**. I THINK THAT'LL HELP, BUT ALL THE KIDS WANT SOME, AND THERE AREN'T ENOUGH.

AT LEAST WE CAN GET COOL WATER FROM THE **SINK** AND USE IT TO CLEAN UP THE TUB. THOUGHT WE'D **NEVER** GET THAT LEAK STOPPED!

WELL, IF I CAN GET THE **BATH** GOING, MAYBE THINGS WON'T BE SO BAD.--ALTHOUGH, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET SOMEONE IN HERE TO FIX THE **HOLE** IN THE WALL WHERE I KNOCKED IT IN TO STOP THE LEAK.

--JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN IN THE **FIRST** PLACE!



HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO THE **RADIO**? THE CITY'S GOING **NUTS**! LORD, SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY WE EVER LEFT THE **SEACOAST**.

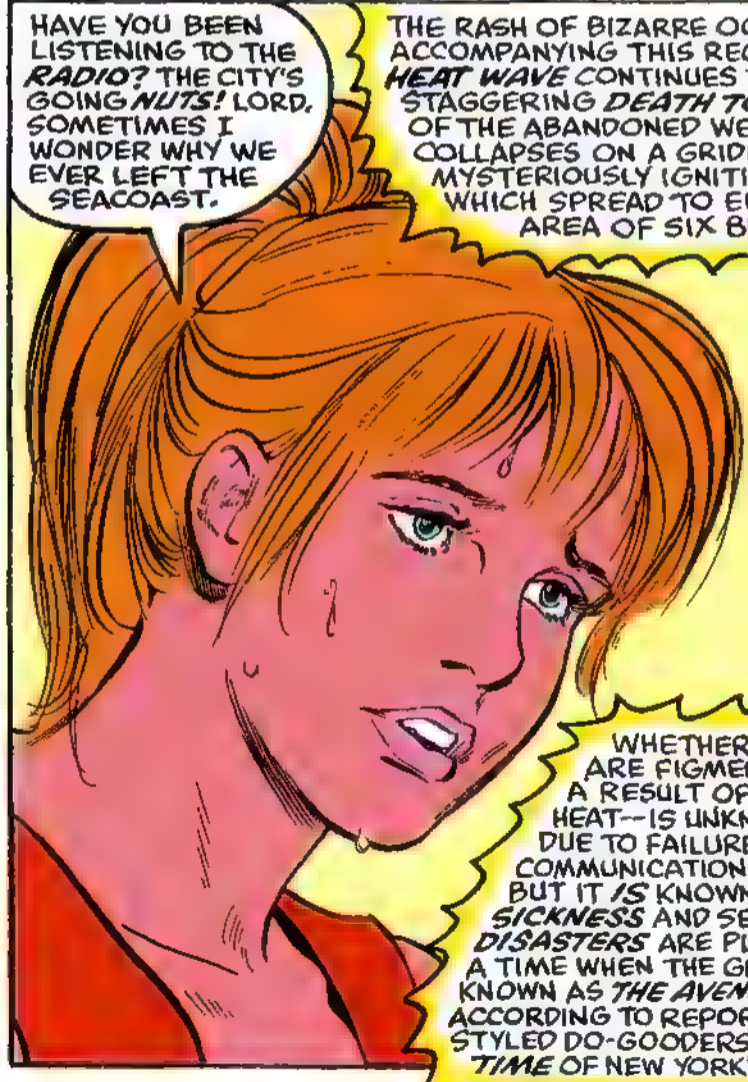
THE RASH OF BIZARRE OCCURRENCES ACCOMPANYING THIS RECORD-BREAKING **HEAT WAVE** CONTINUES TO MOUNT A STAGGERING **DEATH TOLL**, AS MORE OF THE ABANDONED WEST SIDE HIGHWAY COLLAPSES ON A GRIDLOCK AT 54TH ST.--MYSTERIOUSLY IGNITING A FIREBALL WHICH SPREAD TO ENGULF AN AREA OF SIX BLOCKS.

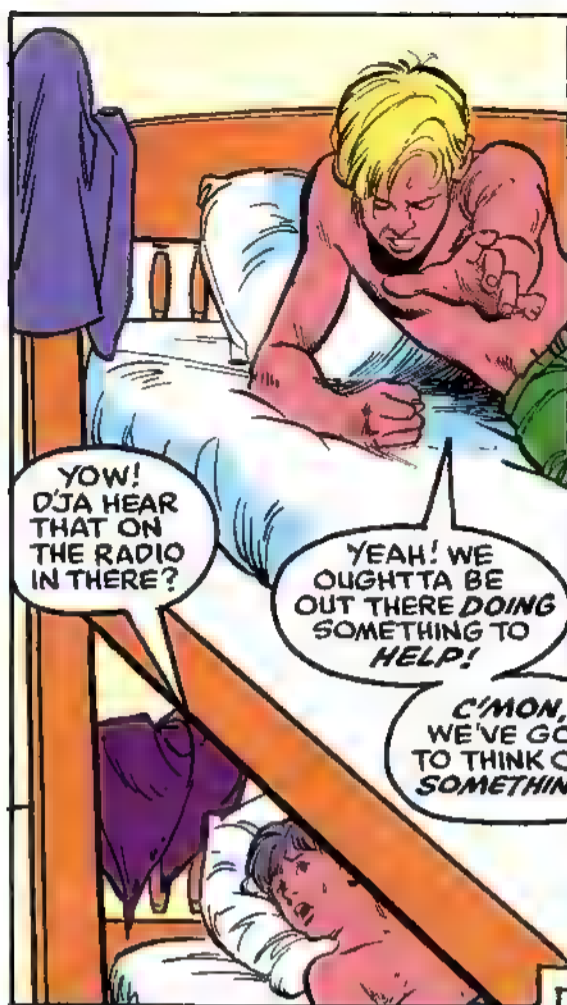
ELSEWHERE, MORE UNEXPLAINED **COLLISIONS** AND TUNNEL **CAVE-INS** ON THE **IRT** AND **IND** LINES HAVE PROMPTED THE MAYOR TO URGE COMMUTERS TO AVOID THE **SUBWAY** ENTIRELY. NO FURTHER WORD ON THAT **BMT** TRAIN, WHICH BECAME TRAPPED EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON. SOME 300 PEOPLE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE **SUFFOCATED** IN THAT DISASTER.

REPORTS HAVE SURFACED THAT OTHER STRANGE TRAGEDIES AROUND THE CITY MAY BE **SUPERNATURAL** IN ORIGIN. **STEAM PIPES** UNEXPECTEDLY **BURSTING** IN THE STREETS HAVE **SCALDED** DOZENS OF PEOPLE TO DEATH--FOLLOWED BY UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF OTHER IN-ANIMATE OBJECTS TAKING ON A MALEVOLENT LIFE OF THEIR OWN. SEVERAL REPORTS ARE COMING IN NOW FROM THE **TIMES SQUARE** AREA OF PEOPLE BEING ATTACKED BY **DEMONIC CREATURES**!

WHETHER OR NOT THESE ARE FIGMENTS OF **HYSTERIA**--A RESULT OF THE UNRELENTING **HEAT**--IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME, DUE TO FAILURE OF SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS AROUND TOWN, BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT **VANDALISM**, **SICKNESS** AND SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE **DISASTERS** ARE PLAGUING THE CITY AT A TIME WHEN THE GROUP OF SUPERHEROES KNOWN AS **THE AVENGERS** HAVE PERMANENTLY **DISBANDED**, ACCORDING TO REPORTS. WHY THE WELL-KNOWN GROUP OF SELF-STYLED DO-GOODERS HAS CHOSEN TO CEASE OPERATING AT THIS **TIME** OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST **NEED** IS NOT KNOWN!*

*--SEE **AVENGERS** #298 FOR THE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY.

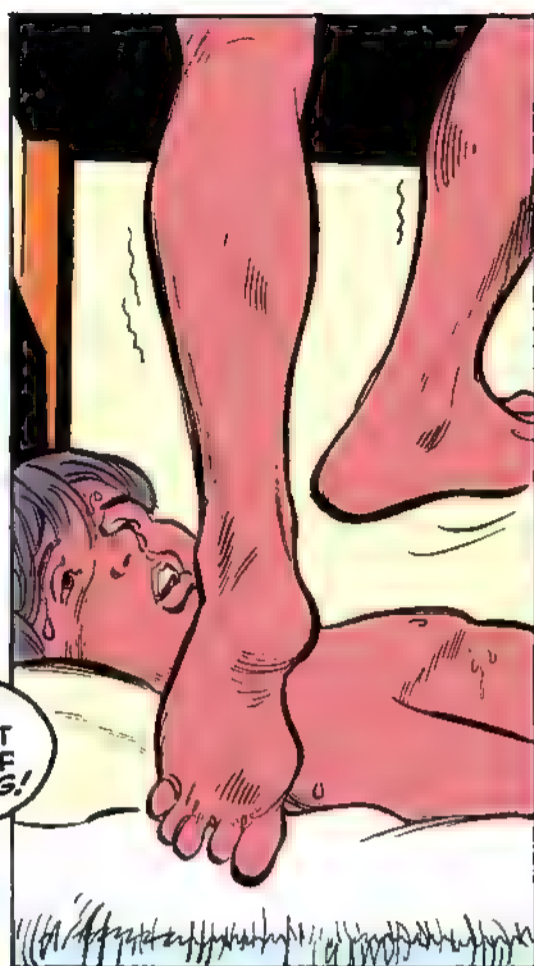




YOW!
D'JA HEAR
THAT ON
THE RADIO
IN THERE?

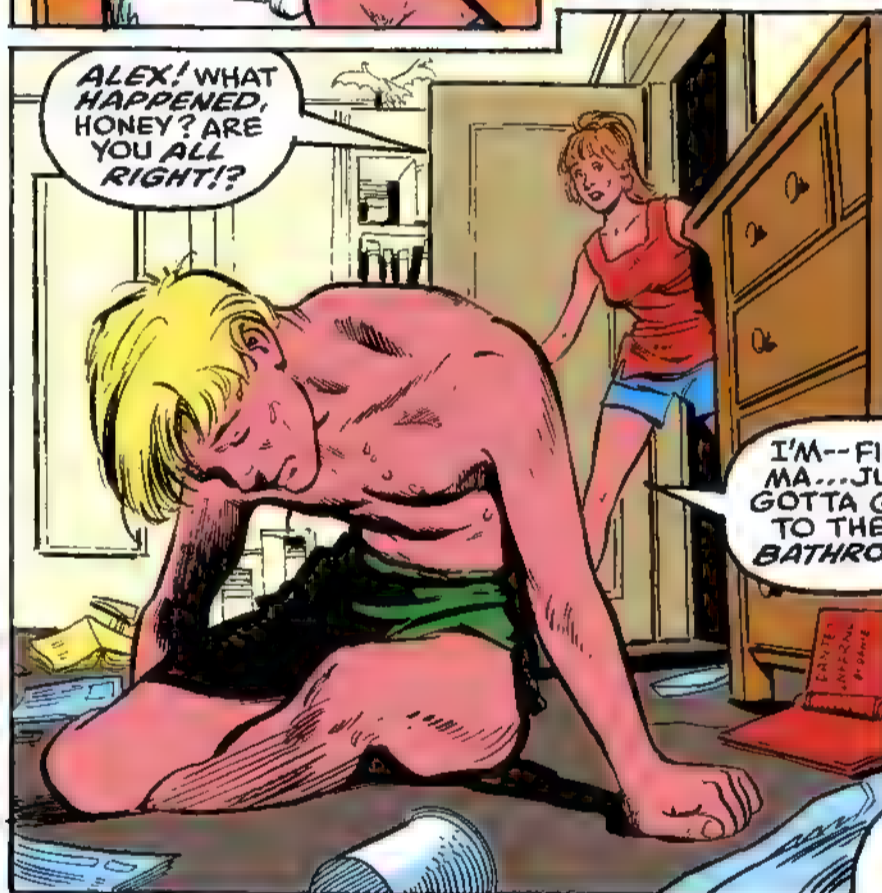
YEAH! WE
OUGHTTA BE
OUT THERE *DOING*
SOMETHING TO
HELP!

C'MON,
WE'VE GOT
TO THINK OF
SOMETHING!



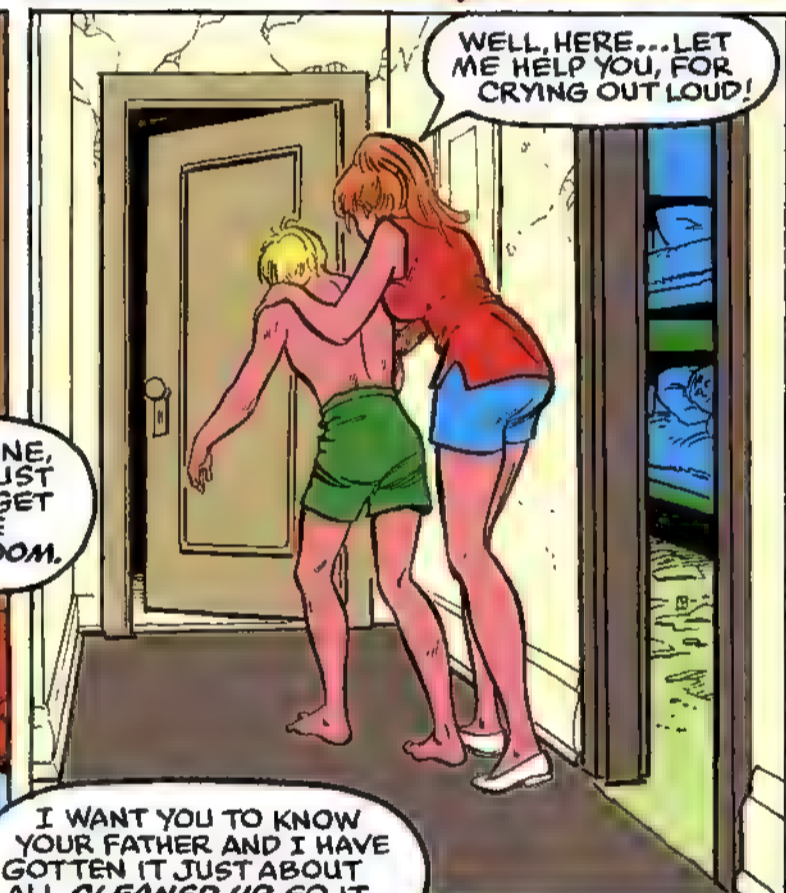
OH, RIGHT.
YOU'RE IN
GREAT SHAPE
TO SAVE THE
WORLD.

WHUMP



ALEX! WHAT
HAPPENED,
HONEY? ARE
YOU *ALL*
RIGHT!?

I'M--FINE,
MA...JUST
GOTTA GET
TO THE
BATHROOM.

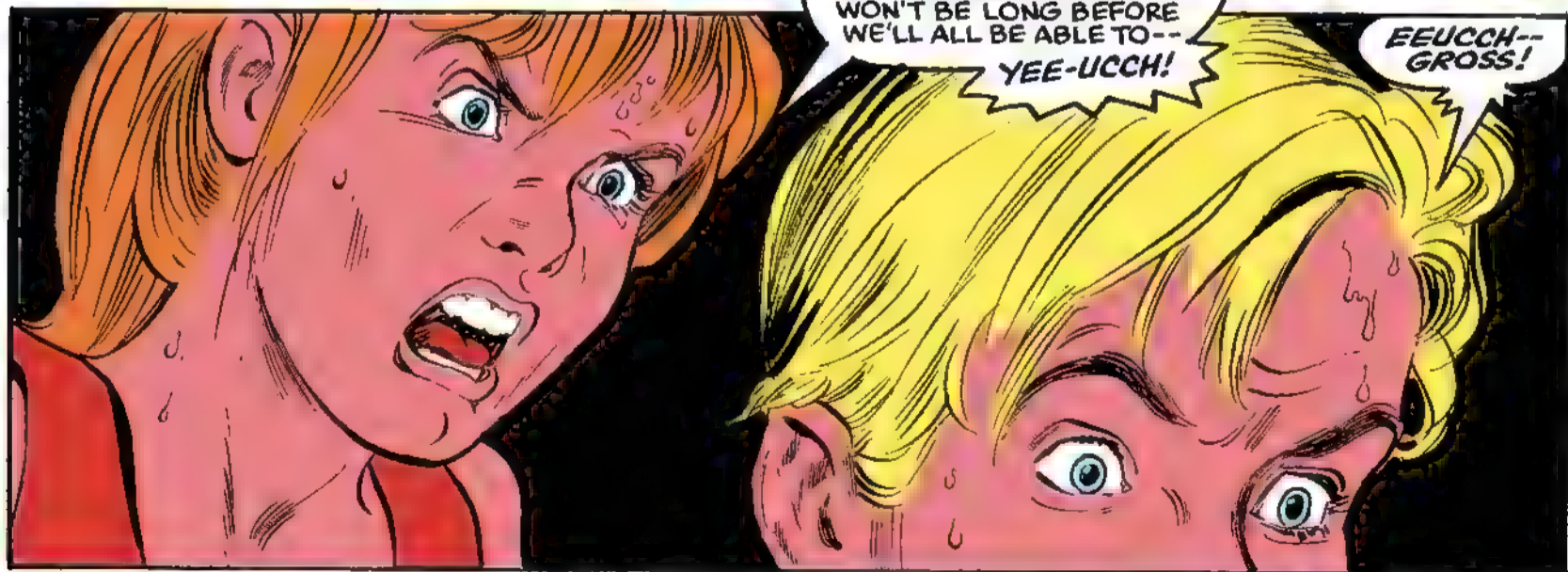


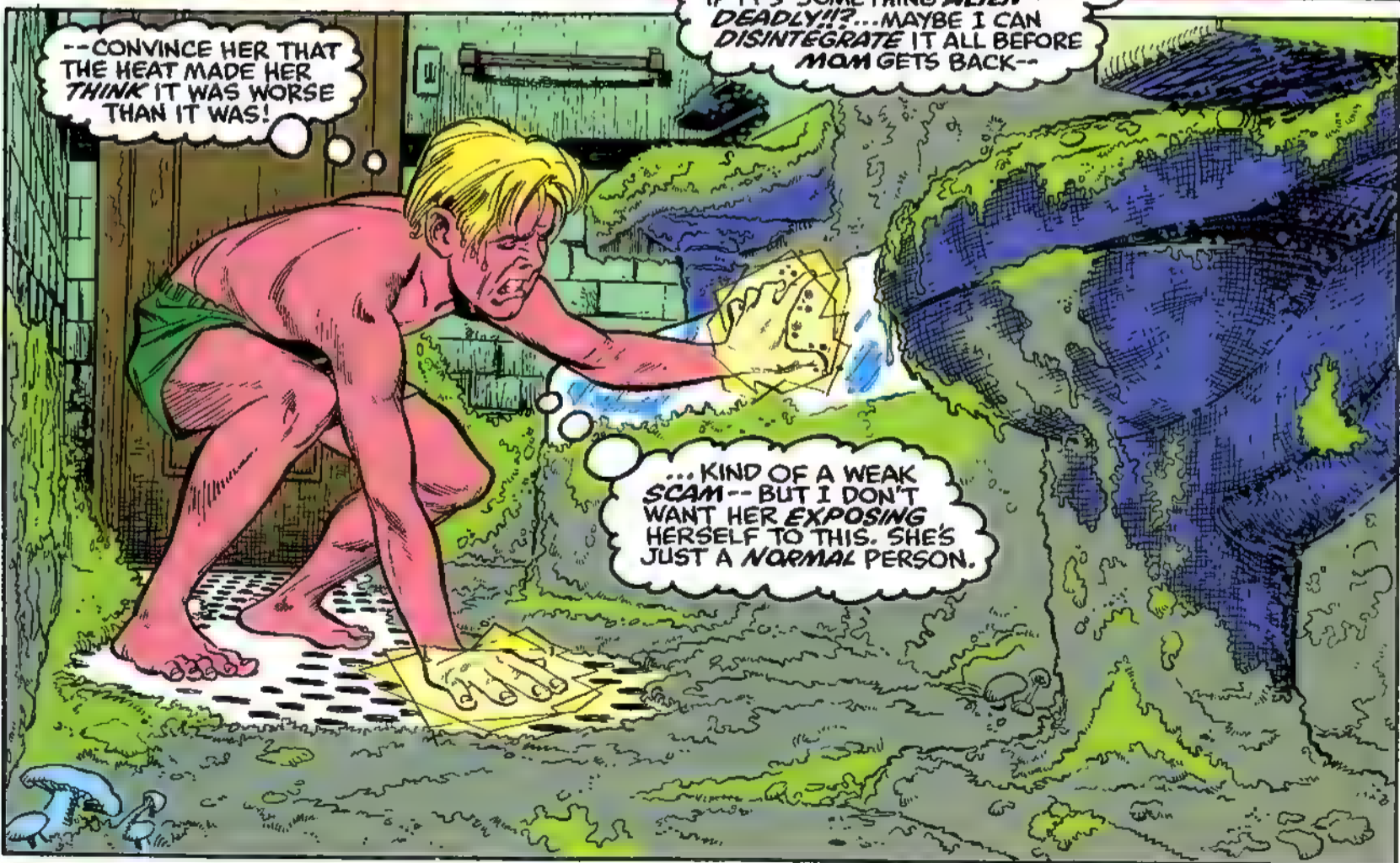
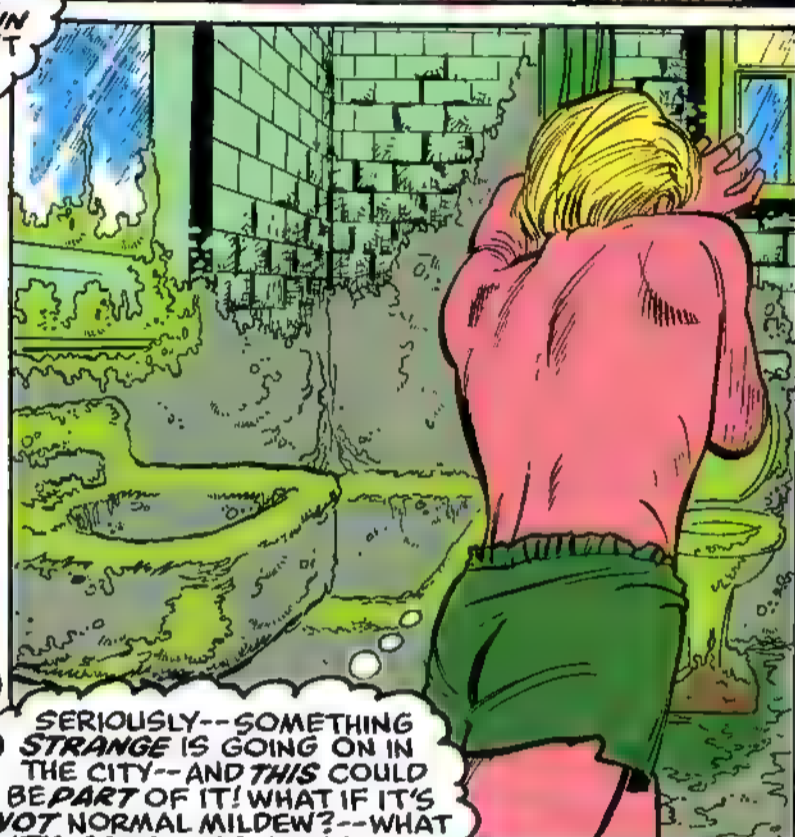
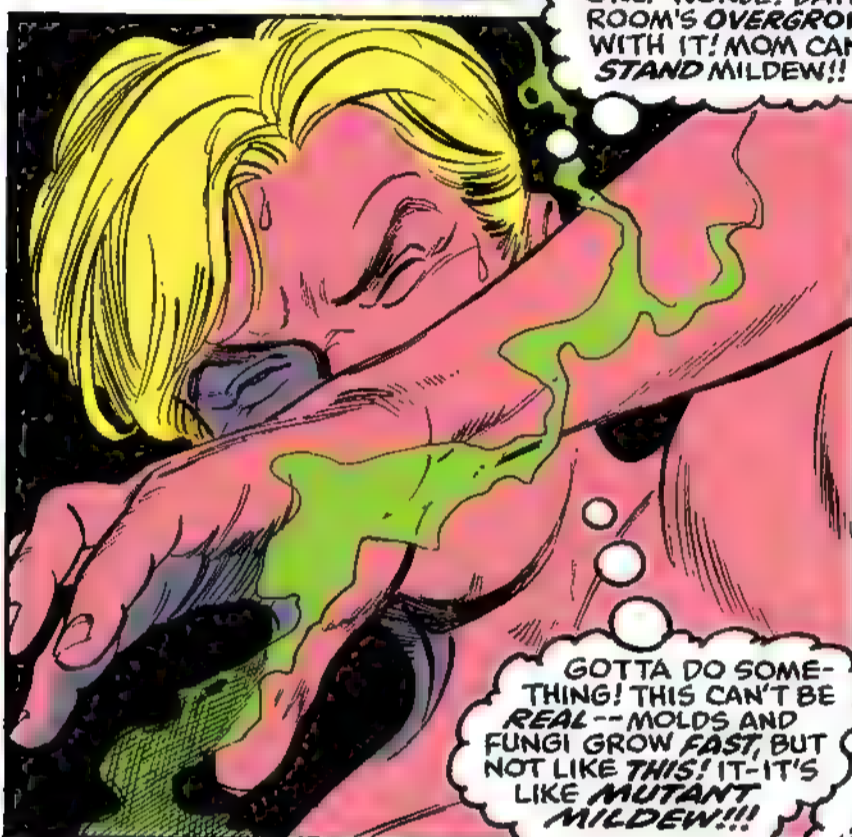
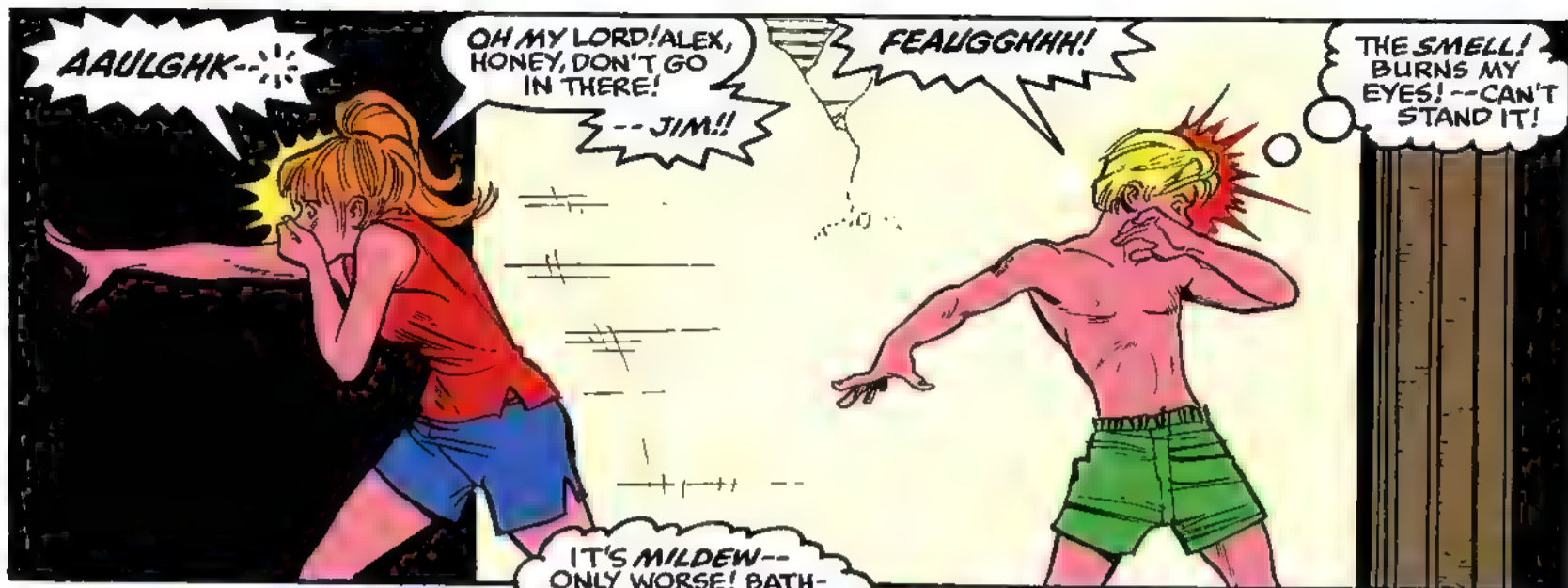
WELL, HERE...LET
ME HELP YOU, FOR
CRYING OUT LOUD!

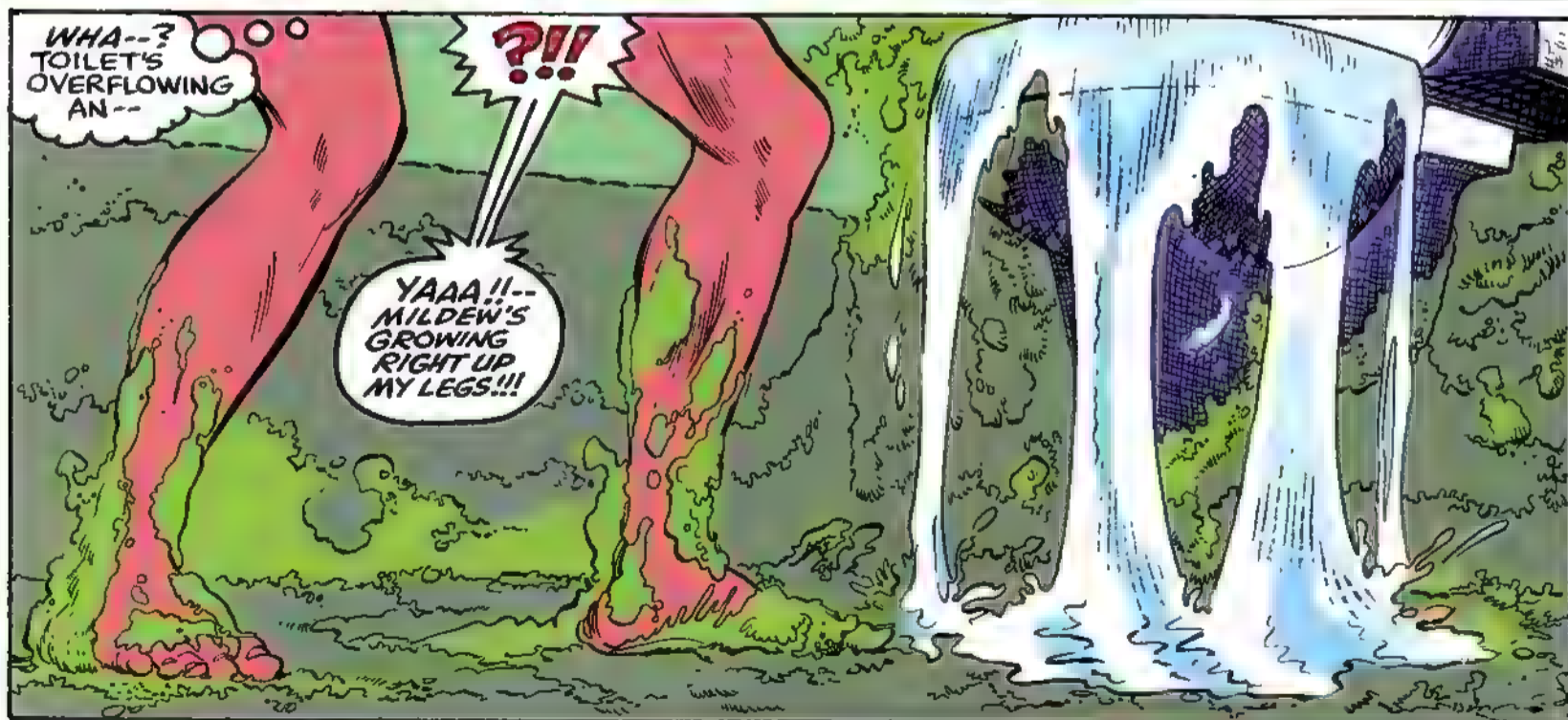
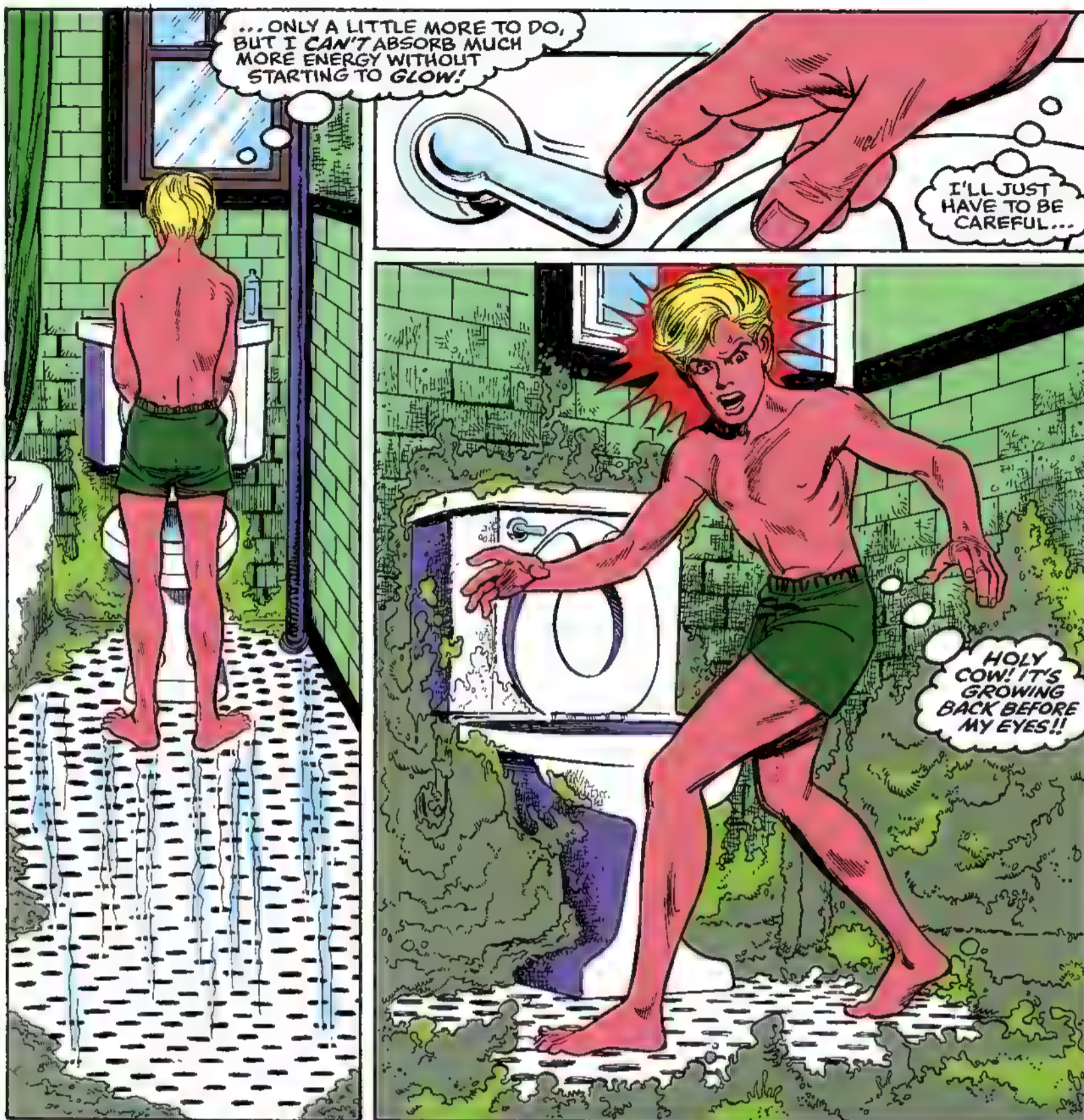
I WANT YOU TO KNOW
YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE
GOTTEN IT JUST ABOUT
ALL *CLEANED UP*, SO IT
WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
WE'LL ALL BE ABLE TO--

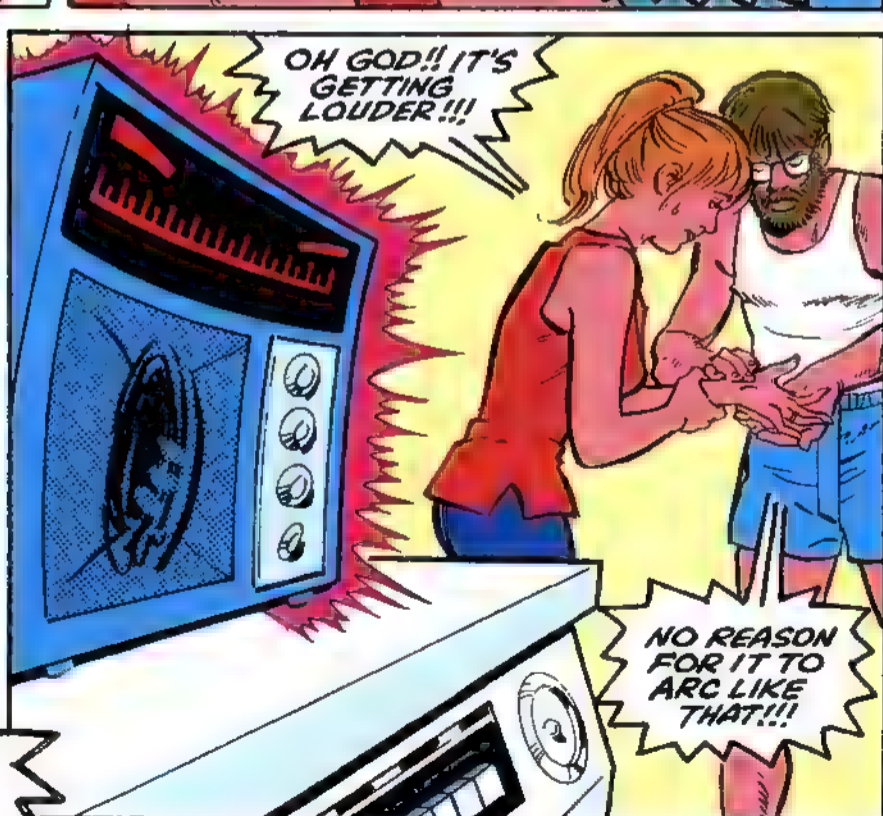
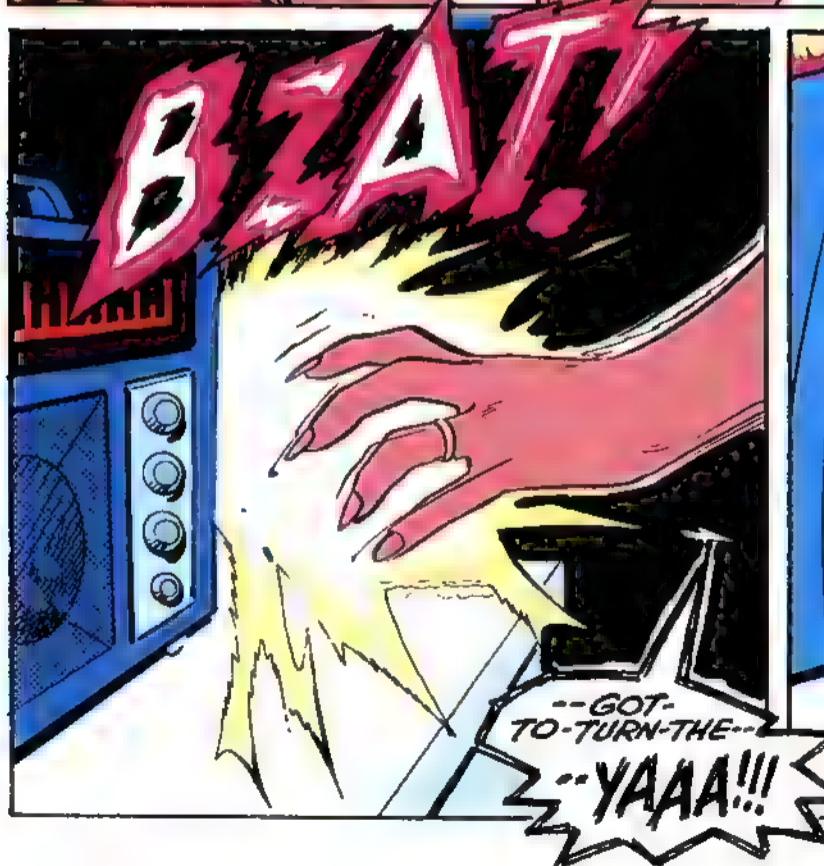
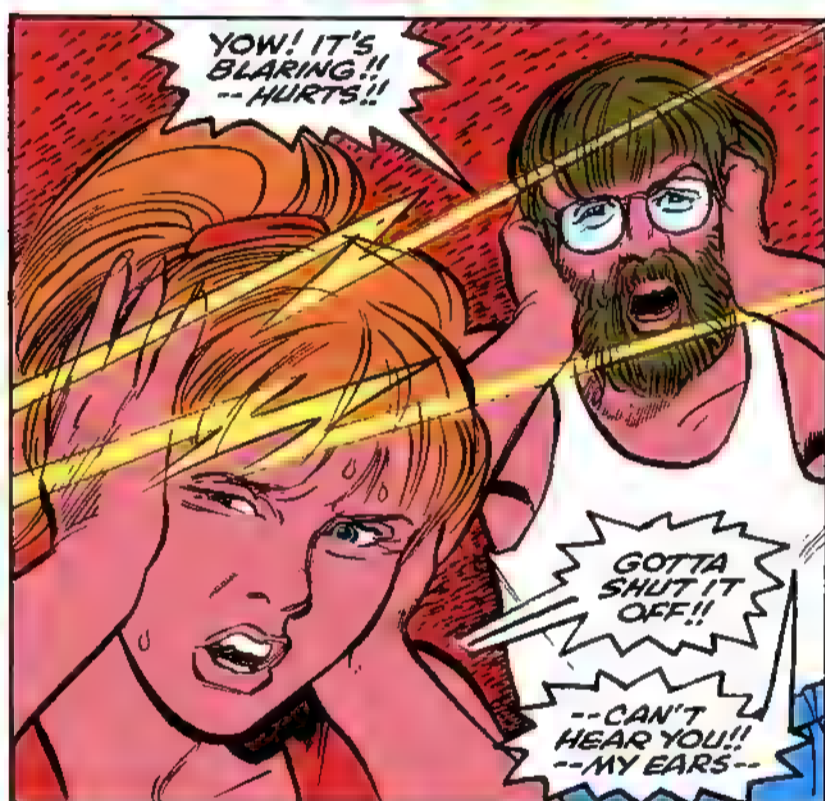
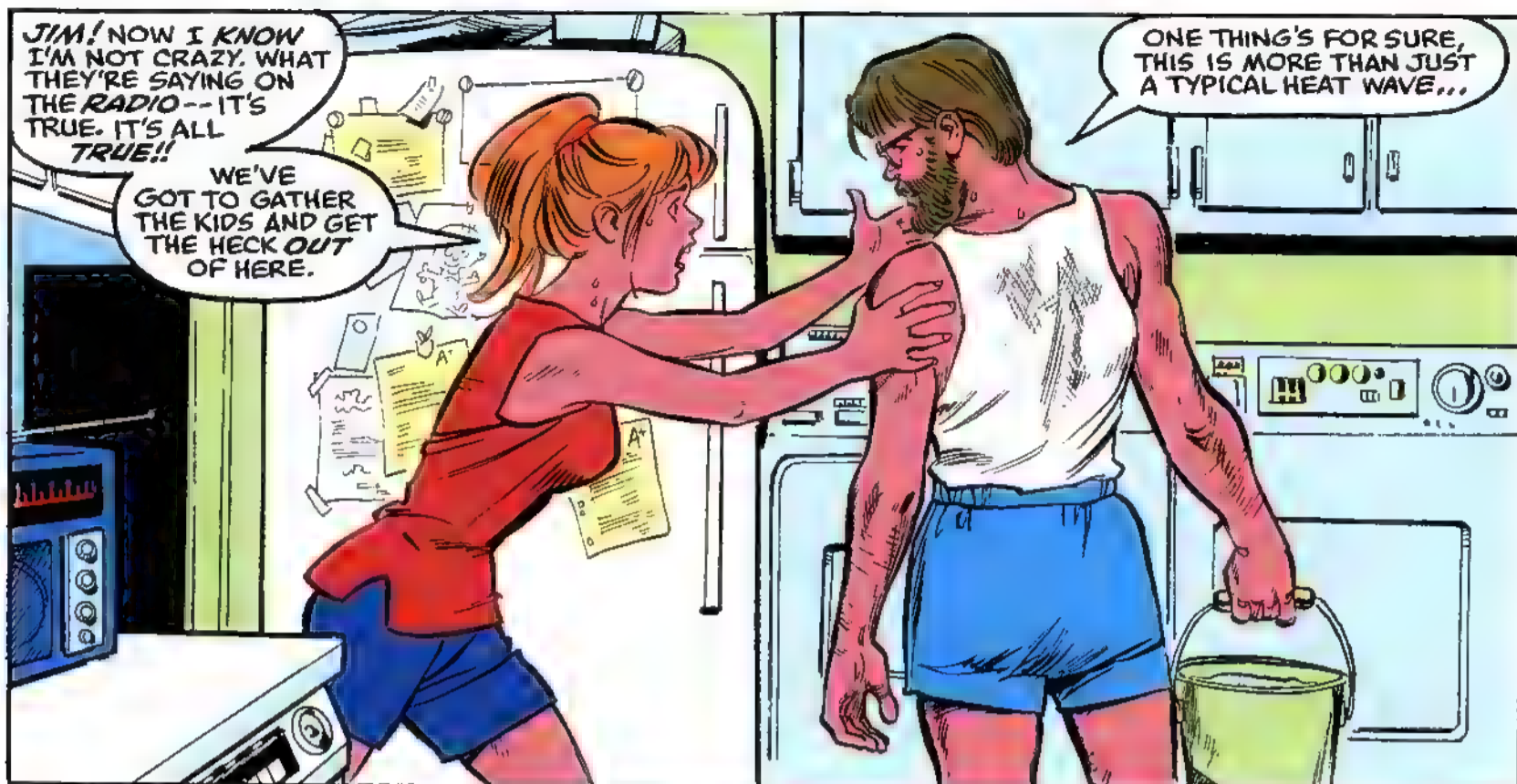
YEE-UCCH!

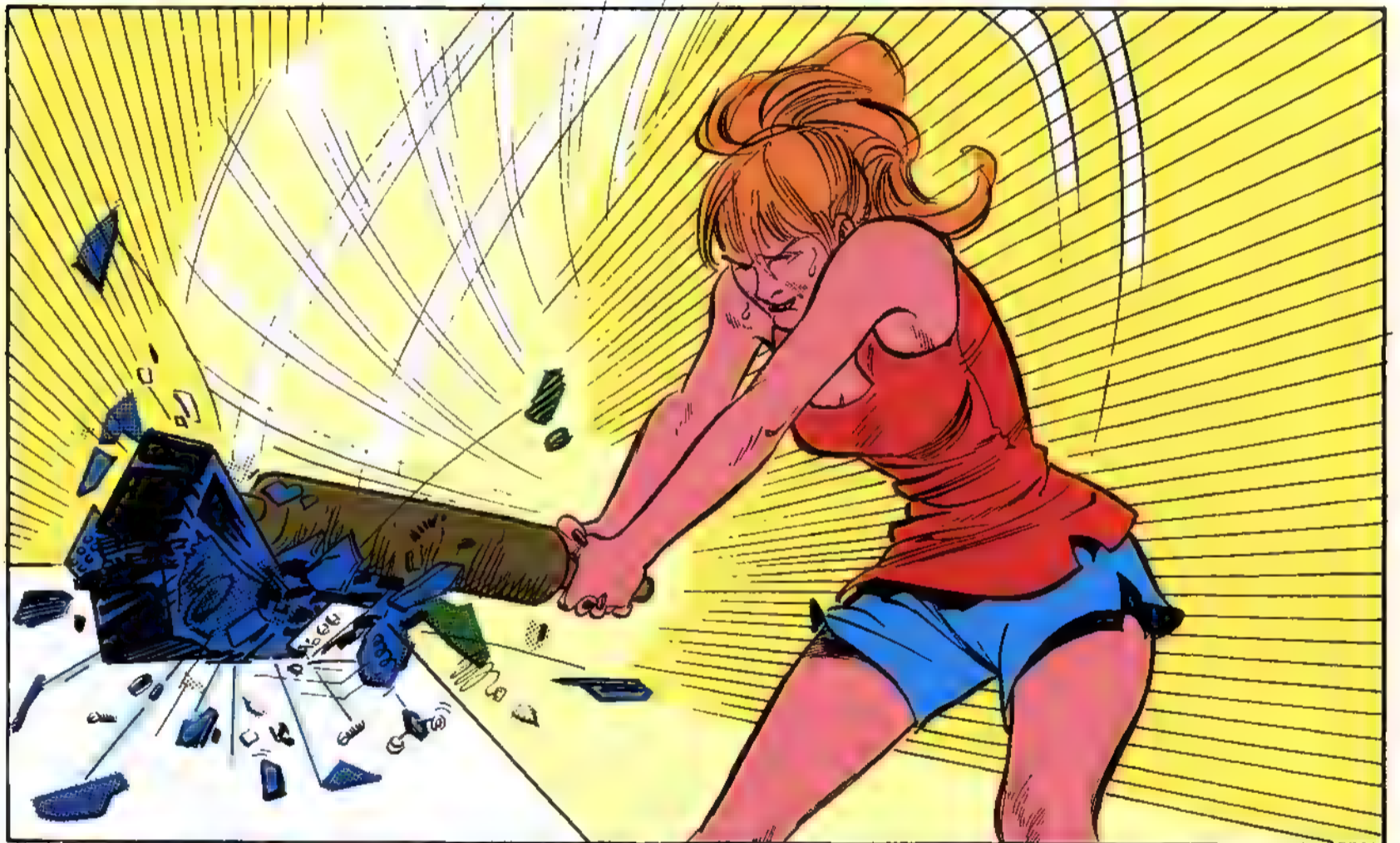
EEUCCH--
GROSS!

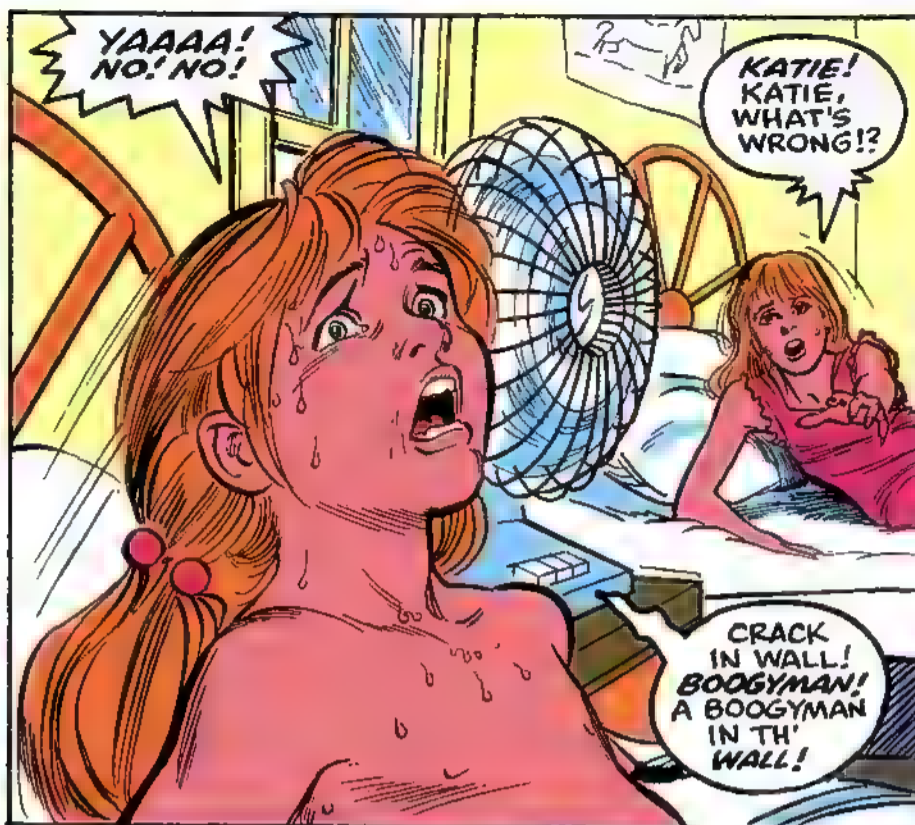








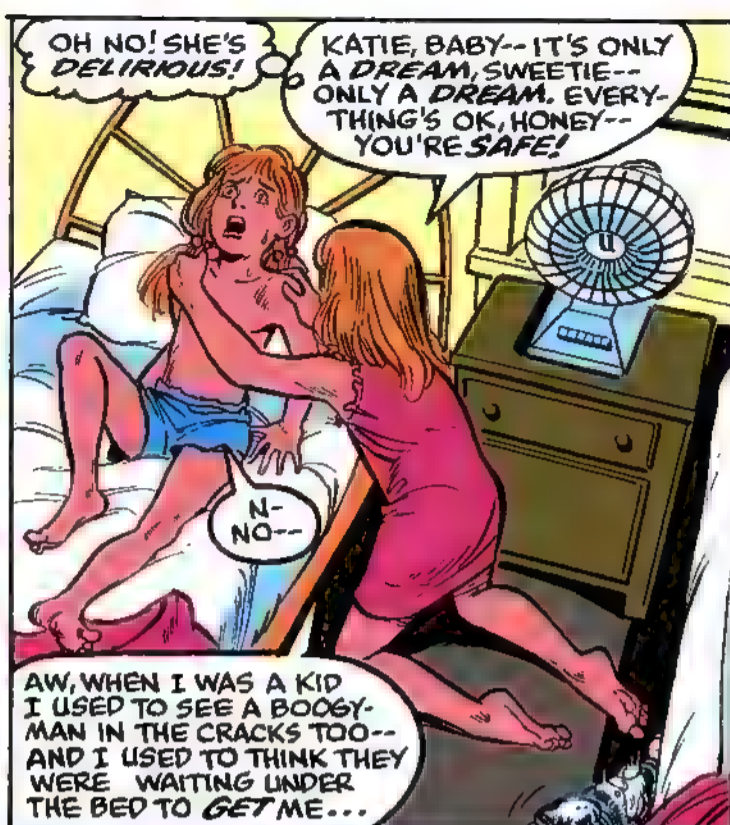




YAAAA!
NO! NO!

KATIE!
KATIE,
WHAT'S
WRONG!?

CRACK
IN WALL!
BOOGYMAN!
A BOOGYMAN
IN TH'
WALL!

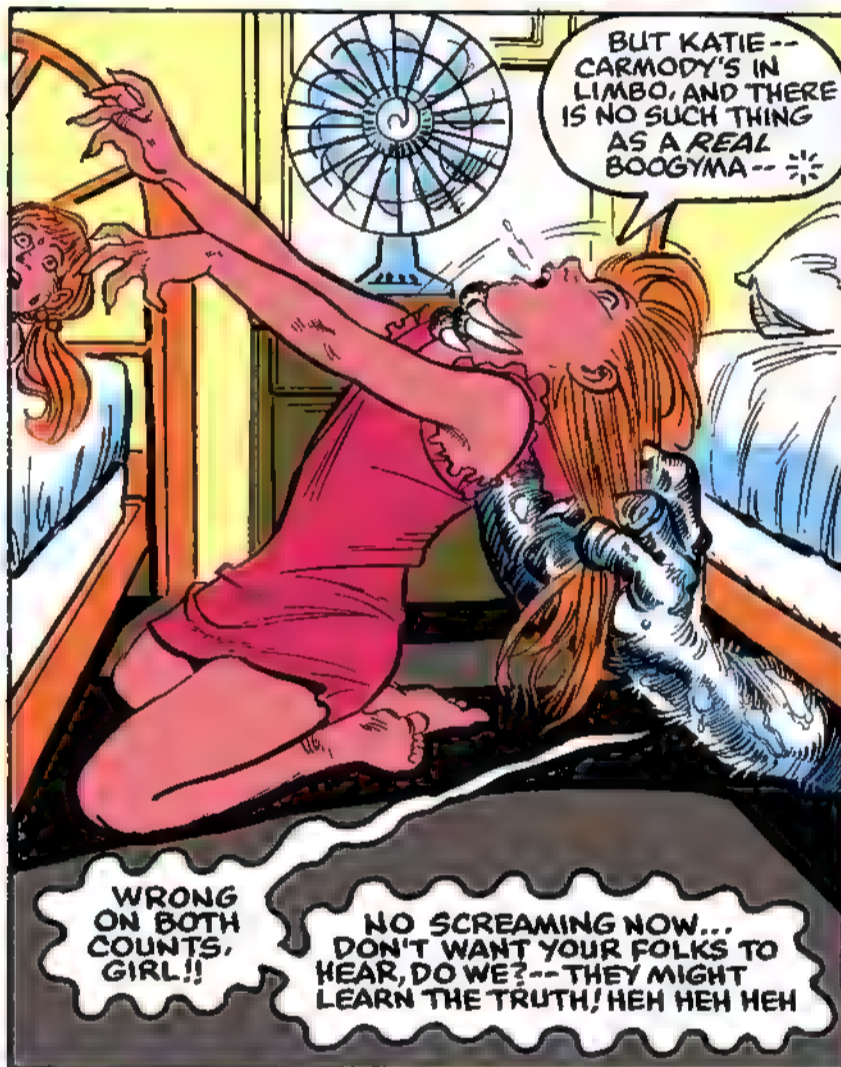


OH NO! SHE'S
DELIRIOUS!

KATIE, BABY-- IT'S ONLY
A DREAM, SWEETIE--
ONLY A DREAM. EVERY-
THING'S OK, HONEY--
YOU'RE SAFE!

N-
NO--

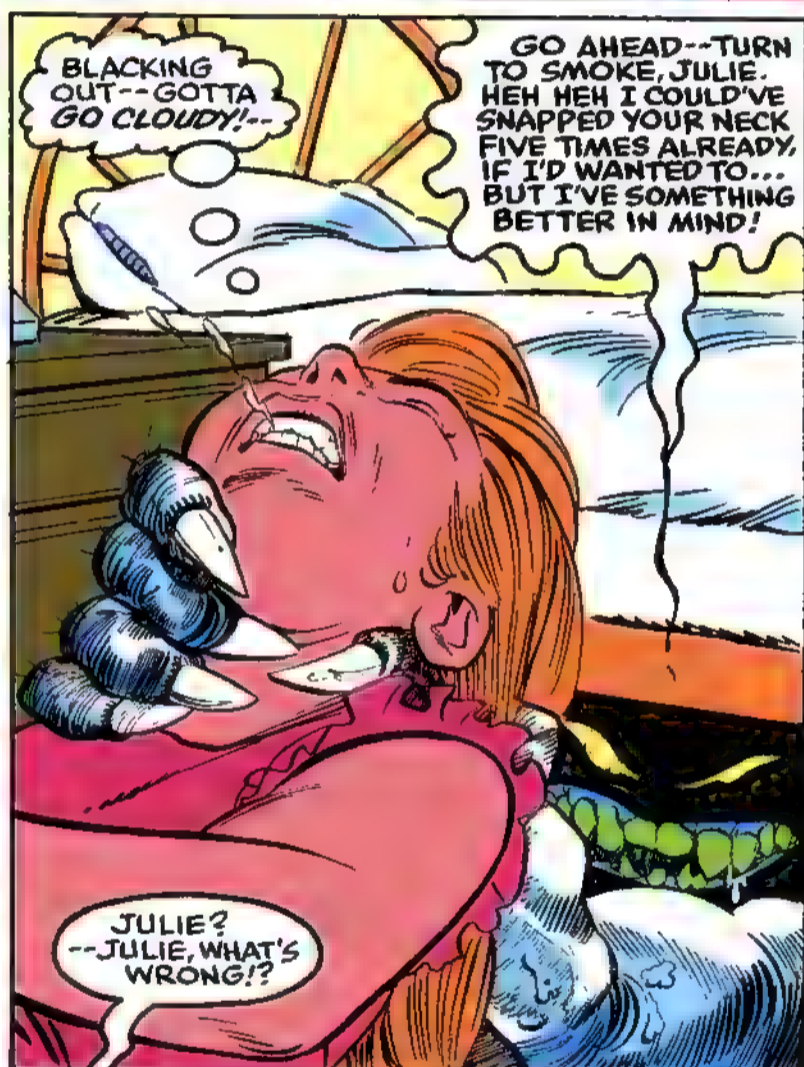
AW, WHEN I WAS A KID
I USED TO SEE A BOOGY-
MAN IN THE CRACKS TOO--
AND I USED TO THINK THEY
WERE WAITING UNDER
THE BED TO GET ME...



BUT KATIE--
CARMODY'S IN
LIMBO, AND THERE
IS NO SUCH THING
AS A REAL
BOOGYMA--

WRONG
ON BOTH
COUNTS,
GIRL!!

NO SCREAMING NOW...
DON'T WANT YOUR FOLKS TO
HEAR, DO WE?-- THEY MIGHT
LEARN THE TRUTH! HEH HEH HEH



BLACKING
OUT-- GOTTA
GO CLOUDY!--

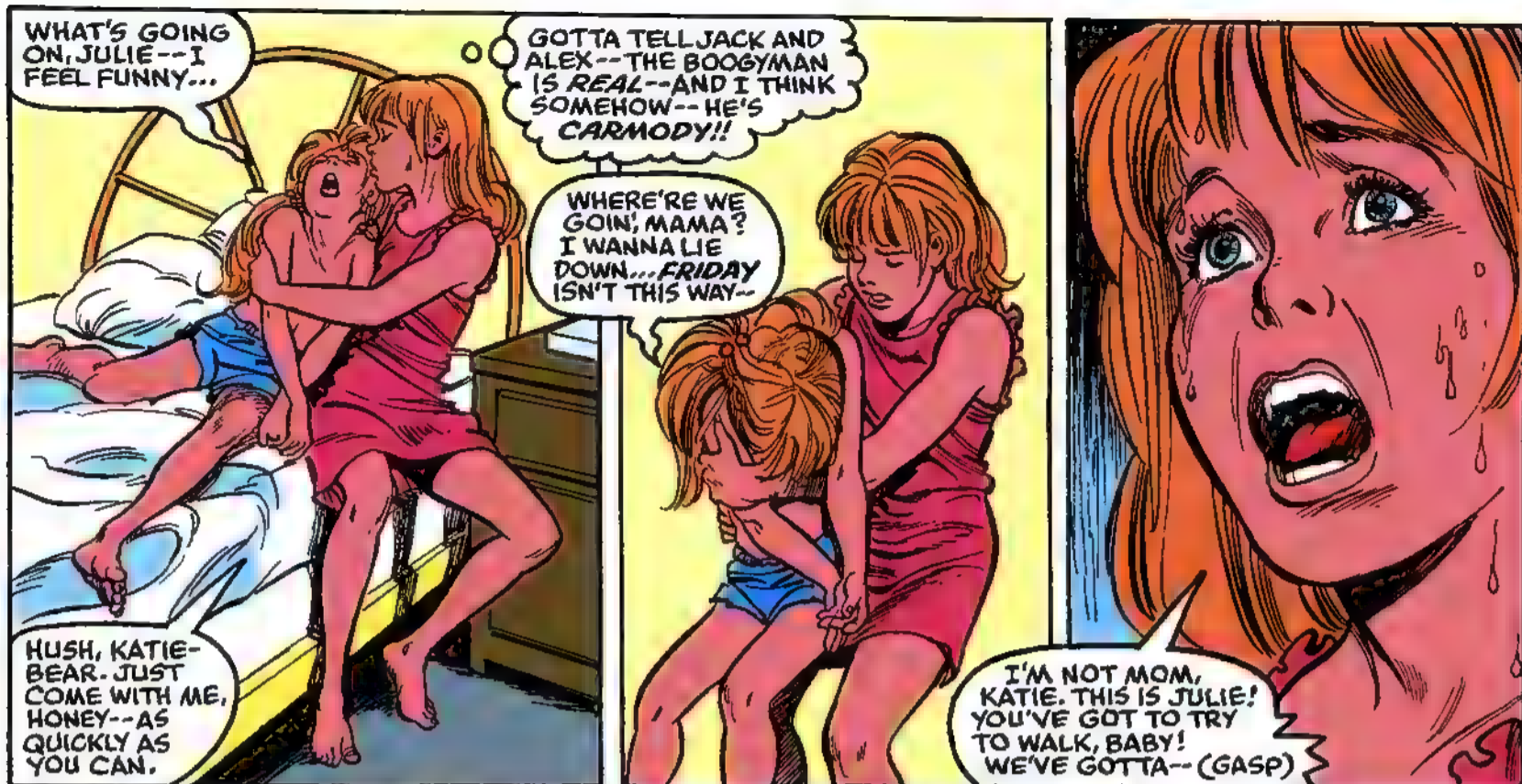
GO AHEAD--TURN
TO SMOKE, JULIE.
HEH HEH I COULD'VE
SNAPPED YOUR NECK
FIVE TIMES ALREADY,
IF I'D WANTED TO...
BUT I'VE SOMETHING
BETTER IN MIND!

JULIE?
--JULIE, WHAT'S
WRONG!?



SOMETHING MUCH
BETTER IN MIND!

... AND I CAN GO ANYWHERE,
FIT ANY HIDING PLACE-- SO
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHEN
OR WHERE I'M GOING TO
STRIKE!-- I'LL BE WATCHING...



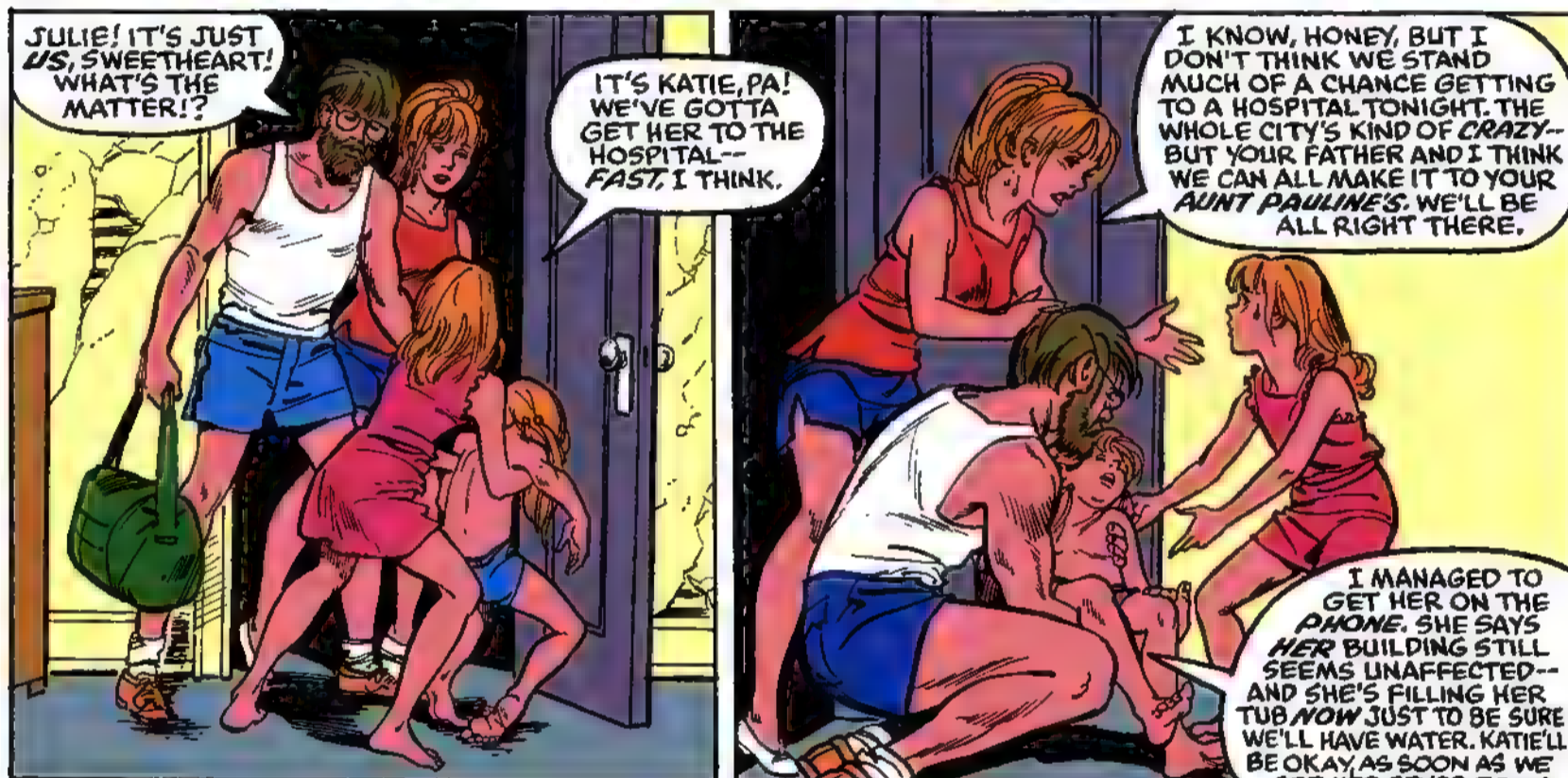
WHAT'S GOING ON, JULIE--I FEEL FUNNY...

GOTTA TELL JACK AND ALEX--THE BOOGYMAN IS REAL--AND I THINK SOMEHOW--HE'S CARMODY!!

WHERE'RE WE GOIN', MAMA? I WANNA LIE DOWN...FRIDAY ISN'T THIS WAY--

HUSH, KATIE-BEAR. JUST COME WITH ME, HONEY--AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN.

I'M NOT MOM, KATIE. THIS IS JULIE! YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO WALK, BABY! WE'VE GOTTA--(GASP)



JULIE! IT'S JUST US, SWEETHEART! WHAT'S THE MATTER!?

IT'S KATIE, PA! WE'VE GOTTA GET HER TO THE HOSPITAL--FAST, I THINK.

I KNOW, HONEY, BUT I DON'T THINK WE STAND MUCH OF A CHANCE GETTING TO A HOSPITAL TONIGHT. THE WHOLE CITY'S KIND OF CRAZY--BUT YOUR FATHER AND I THINK WE CAN ALL MAKE IT TO YOUR AUNT PAULINE'S. WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT THERE.

I MANAGED TO GET HER ON THE PHONE. SHE SAYS HER BUILDING STILL SEEMS UNAFFECTED--AND SHE'S FILLING HER TUB NOW JUST TO BE SURE WE'LL HAVE WATER. KATIE'LL BE OKAY AS SOON AS WE GET HER FEVER DOWN.



BOYS...

WE KNOW, MA. WE HEARD.

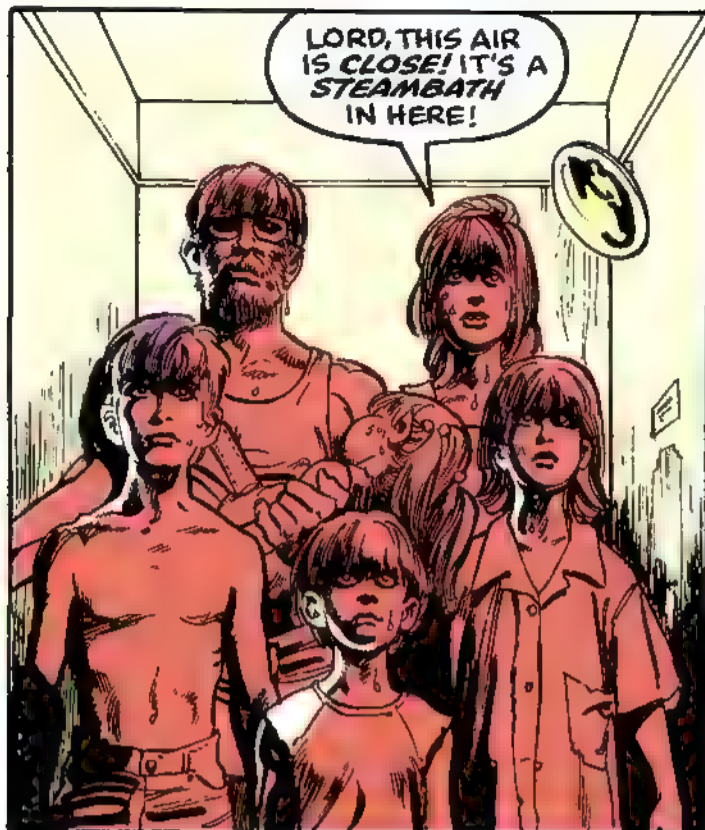
LET'S ALL JUST GET OURSELVES OUT OF HERE AS QUICKLY AND CALMLY AS POSSIBLE.

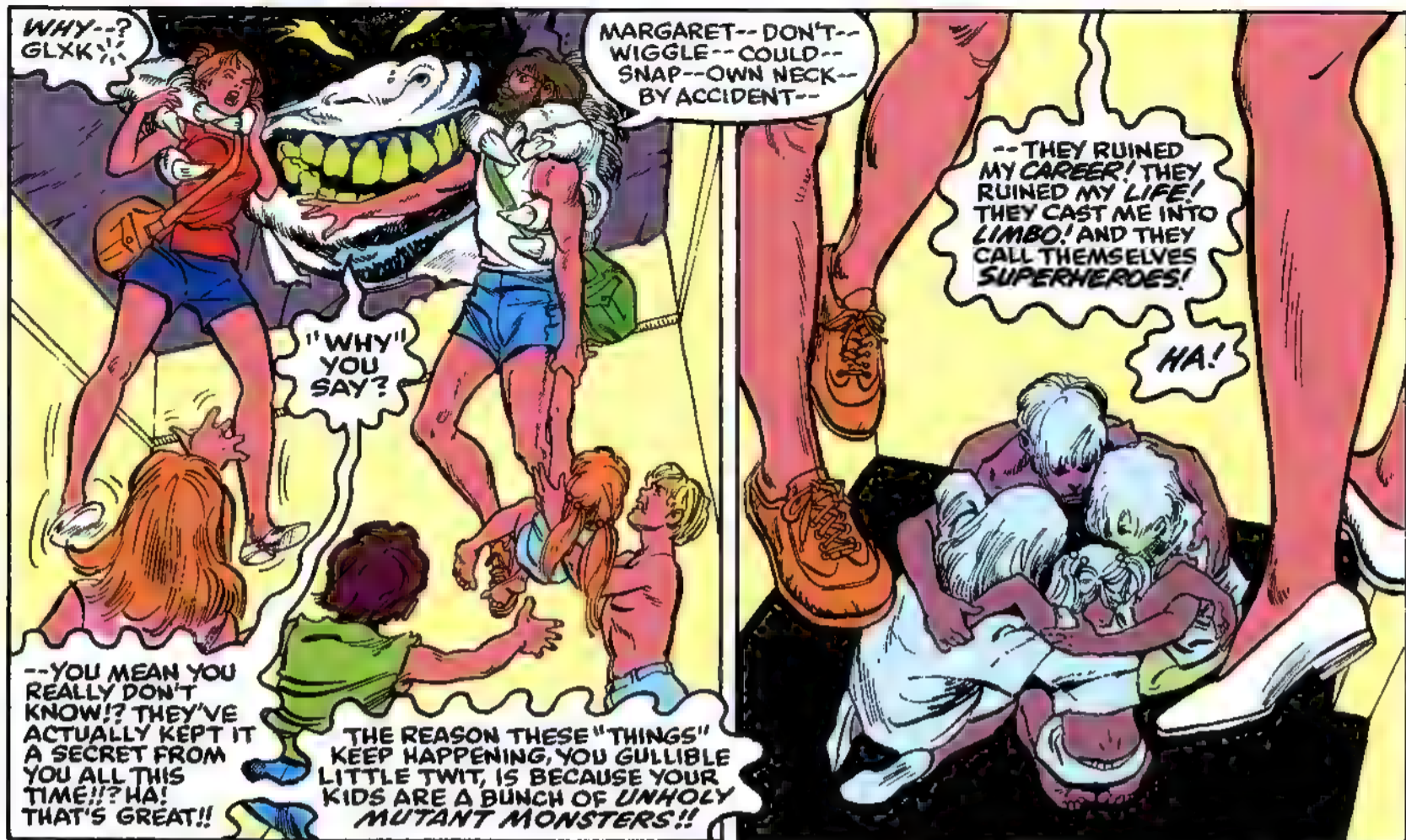


ELEVATOR'S STILL WORKING, THANK HEAVEN...

HOLY COW! IT'S A GOOD THING YOU WEREN'T HURT, JULIE--BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS BOOGYMAN UNTIL HE SHOWS HIMSELF!

...RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOTTA FIND A WAY TO GET KATIE IN A CIRCLE WITH US AND USE OUR HEALING POWERS WITHOUT MOM AND DAD CATCHING ON.





WHY--?
GLXK!!

MARGARET-- DON'T--
WIGGLE-- COULD--
SNAP--OWN NECK--
BY ACCIDENT--

"WHY"
YOU
SAY?

--YOU MEAN YOU
REALLY DON'T
KNOW!? THEY'VE
ACTUALLY KEPT IT
A SECRET FROM
YOU ALL THIS
TIME!!? HA!
THAT'S GREAT!!

THE REASON THESE "THINGS"
KEEP HAPPENING, YOU GULLIBLE
LITTLE TWIT, IS BECAUSE YOUR
KIDS ARE A BUNCH OF UNHOLY
MUTANT MONSTERS!!

-- THEY RUINED
MY CAREER! THEY
RUINED MY LIFE!
THEY CAST ME INTO
LIMBO! AND THEY
CALL THEMSELVES
SUPERHEROES!

HA!

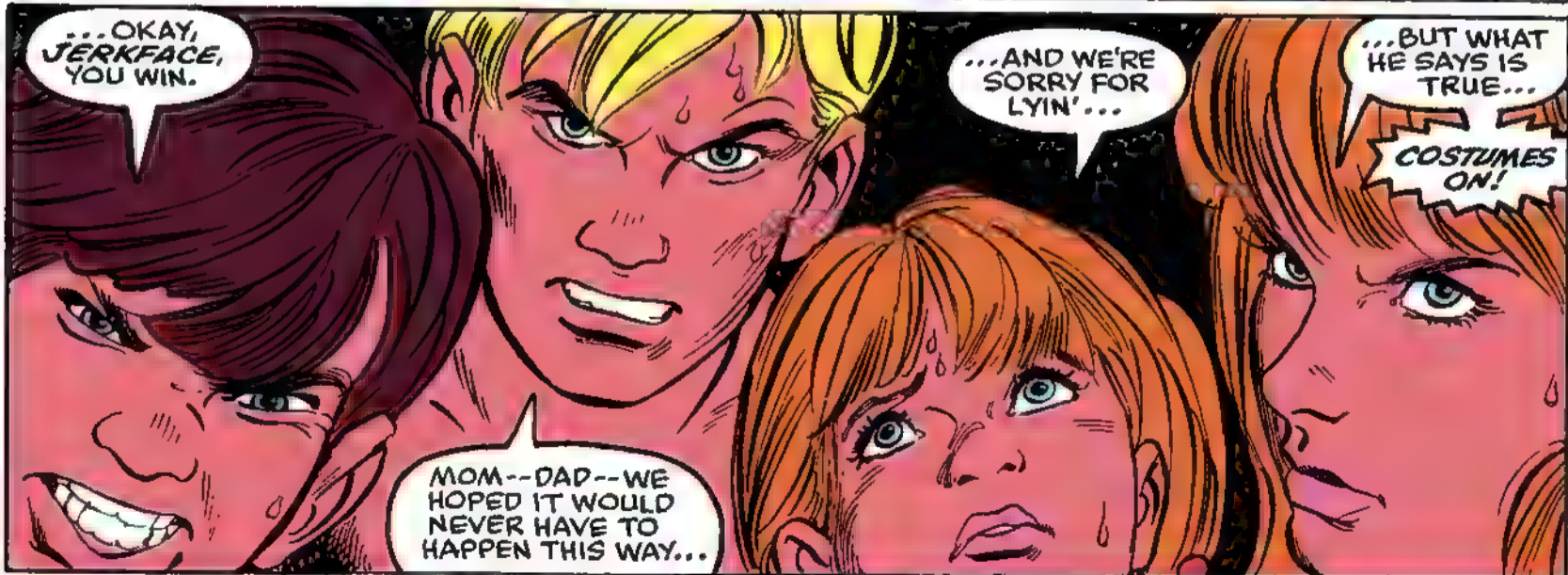


WHADDYA THINK OF *THAT*, KIDS!?
I'VE *BLOWN* YOUR LITTLE
SECRET-- HOW'RE YOU
GONNA COVER IT UP
THIS TIME!!!?

NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT CAN'T BE! NOT
OUR CHILDREN. IT'S
A MISTAKE. LEAVE
THEM ALONE!!

LISTEN, WHOEVER YOU
ARE, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG
PEOPLE! DON'T YOU THINK
WE KNOW OUR OWN KIDS
FOR GOD'S SAKE!?

THEY ARE MUTANTS, I SAY! MUTANTS!!
--AND I'M GIVING THEM A CHOICE!
EITHER THEY *PROVE* IT BY TRYING TO
SAVE YOUR LIVES--OR *WATCH*
WHILE I TWIST YOUR HEADS CLEAN
OFF!!!!



...OKAY,
JERKFACE,
YOU WIN.

...AND WE'RE
SORRY FOR
LYIN'...

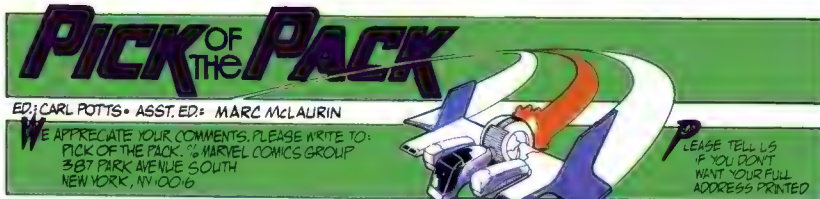
...BUT WHAT
HE SAYS IS
TRUE...

COSTUMES
ON!

MOM--DAD--WE
HOPED IT WOULD
NEVER HAVE TO
HAPPEN THIS WAY...



"OH NO! HOW CAN THEY DO THIS TO THE PACK!?" EVEN IF POWER PACK CAN SAVE THEIR PARENTS, HOW CAN THEY SURVIVE THIS PREMISE-BUSTING REVELATION!? ALL WE CAN SAY IS IT HAD TO HAPPEN!-- AND YOU MAY BE SORRY YOU ASKED FOR IT! BE HERE FOR PART II IN SIX WEEKS!



ED: CARL POTTS • ASST. ED: MARC McLAURIN

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS. PLEASE WRITE TO:
PICK OF THE PACK, c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, NY 10016

Dear Power Pack People,

I have been with POWER PACK from the start and am still thoroughly enjoying it. The Team is developing character and powerwise, and it is power that I am here to talk about...

Whitley said, "Humans, it seems, have phenomenally adaptable molecular structures." His plan was to alter the Powers' cells so that he could give his powers to them. He accomplished this through a combined use of his powers. Initially, Alex could control gravity, Julie acceleration, Jack mass and Katie energy. Each received a one-of-a-kind molecular template and one-fourth of a self-sufficient atomic-level power source. Working together they also have the ability to switch powers; this is in Wars. Only in that instance they used the transfer machine as a nexus.

The Pack is developing more versatile uses for their particular control over their energy, but they still lack one that saved them in their first Snark encounter. Teleportation!

According to Katie in Issue #40, "It'd be real neat to teleport home! It's too bad, when Whitley came from Space he didn't give any of us that power, too!" But he did. I am surprised that Alex has not figured out how they could do it (but he is also the only one not expanding on his powers. Actually I am surprised that he hasn't told Allison, but that's another letter...). The process is very tricky, but plausible...

1. The energy controller dematerializes the mass entity.
2. The Mass controller controls molecular integrity and pattern.
3. The acceleration controller actually moves the unit (in this form at tachyon levels).
4. All controllers are used in materialization. The energy mass is gravitationally accelerated to physical form.

S. Daniel Carlier
7555 Granada Drive
Knoxville, TN 37909

P.S. The Origin Album was great! How about a complete log some time soon. P.P.S. Whatever became of Friday? Smartshirts don't die easy. Bring Friday, Kofi, Franklin and June Brigman back Go for an Annual or create a special of some kind!

You've come up with a brilliant theory, Dan, for how the kids might be able to teleport. Unfortunately, the subtle manipulation of molecules required in order to re-integrate them in another place is beyond their powers, and there is no indication that even Whitley was capable of such a sophisticated procedure. Good news, though, for you and all fans of June Brigman—the creator of POWER PACK's original artistic concept WILL be back

for a guest penciling in an upcoming issue teaming up with Julianna Jones on story.

Dear Packers,

How's this for the ultimate plot twist, or at least a "what if?" episode?

If we take for granted POWER PACK's "powers" reflect the four forces that make up our universe (or the remains, "ashes?" of the previous one) born in the Big Bang—with Molecule and Destroyer representing weak and strong nuclear forces, and Starstreak and Counterweight, the electromagnetic spectrum and gravity, then wouldn't the addition of a powerful energy source (eg. Frank Richards - Tattletale) have the same effect as gasoline thrown on a fire, creating an all-powerful team (or gestalt) on the scale of the Beyonder or at least Phoenix, able to create and destroy at will? (For more on Gestalts read the book "More Than Human" by Theodore Sturgeon.)

Thanks for the literary tip, J. The majority of our readers seem to favor POWER PACK stories of the human-interest type, on a smaller scale more suited to their age and family situation. That is one of POWER PACK's unique qualities in the Marvel Universe.

Dear Louise Simonson,

Please help. I am only 8 years old, but I have been collecting comics since I was 3 and have a complete collection of POWER PACK and ELFGUEST. My daddy has a complete collection of AVENGERS. I am reading them now and like them a lot, but I am real worried about POWER PACK. I wrote before when I was only 7, but I guess you didn't get the letter. POWER PACK is my favorite comic book, but it has been getting worse and worse. First it came out monthly and now it doesn't. I used to see it at the grocery store, but now I have to wait to buy it until we go to the Comic Carnival where my daddy buys lots of comics. It used to have really good art just like the AVENGERS and FANTASTIC FOUR, but the last two issues where some of the kids looked like the person drawing them didn't care. Well, I care. I want to see POWER PACK one of my favorites again.

I fantasize playing a game with my daddy and his friends, and I play POWER PACK. I even drew a picture of me as a member of POWER PACK with a computer mind which I am sending you. In my daddy's game I and Cassie Lang who swiped some of her dad's shrink pills, but they let her shrink and grow, are the newest members of

POWER PACK. It would be nice if it was stories. More important is making the stories look good and letting me and my friends buy it at the grocery store. A lot of my friends who used to buy POWER PACK don't have daddies who take them to the Comic Carnival, so they only read mine.

I hope you get this letter. Just because I'm a kid doesn't mean I don't buy comic books I like if I can find them. I like your writing a lot. My daddy says he likes my stories. Maybe someday I can write POWER PACK or ELFGUEST. I'm worried because I used to collect SUPERBOY and he got cancelled. Now I collect POWER PACK, and Daddy says it might get cancelled too. Please don't cancel POWER PACK.

Love,
Anjela Conner
2707 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Starting with this issue, as you can see Anjela, Jon Bogdanove will be taking the kids far and wide on a series of exciting new adventures. For your friends who don't want to miss a single one, we recommend subscribing. POWER PACK will never be canceled as long as it has enough wonderful readers like you.

Hi, Folks!

I've just joined the POWER PACK Fan Club (thanks to the plug you ran) and the enclosed is a copy of a brief essay I wrote for them. I hope you'll accept these as the words of a concerned Pack fan who wants to help the book get out of the slump that many of us feel it's fallen into.

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Okay, Point One: We all call ourselves POWER PACK fans, don't we? And point two: We all agree that the book which we call ourselves fans of has fallen into a decline over the last couple of years, right? If we can agree on those two things, we can proceed on to the next point: What can we do about fixing the book and making it fun again?

Well, because of our interest, we can claim a little more knowledge and enthusiasm than the average fan. Thus, we are in a position to make suggestions that deserve a little more consideration than something the average kid who writes a fan letter to a comic would get. And since, by all appearances, the staff working on the Pack are floundering around and in need of a new direction, maybe we can supply it. I'd like to challenge my fellow Club members to work out their own answers to the question: How do you think the Pack title can get from where it is now to the levels of fun and enjoyability it once had?

I wouldn't presume to offer such a challenge if I didn't have my own

answers ready. So, here I go: First off, I would like to lobby Tom DeFalco: All right, you got what you wanted, by means of repeated guest-shots and cross-overs with Marvel's biggest current successes—The X-MEN family of books—you got a lot of reluctant kids to sample the Pack. You added about 40,000 readers and saved a book that was in dire danger of cancellation, because everyone on the staff liked it. Now, I plead with you, in the name of the qualities that made that book enjoyable in the first place, it's time to knock off the cross-overs and the apparently inevitable corruptive influence that comes with them. Whenever the Pack run into mutants, nasty goings-on and inappropriate story situations tend to come with them. And please, after this INFERNO tie-in, whatever you do, please don't involve the Pack in any more demon stories!

Next, I am one of the fraction that believes that the Pack should tell their folks about the Great Secret (and by the time you read this, they will reportedly have done just that) for those interested, I refer you to Larry Dudgeon's article in POWER LINES #2, with which I concur absolutely, and to the reported concern of creator Louise Simonson that "if you are a kid and you have a secret, it's no fun anymore if Mom and Dad know." I feel there's a quality inherent in the series that affects this: The Powers, parents and kids, are an unusually close, communicating, caring family. (The trash storyline touched ever so briefly on the fact that not every family can be as close as they are.) Thus, they have great value as role models, as readers can see them and learn that there may be a better way to live than the way they may be living now. Keeping secrets from each other just doesn't fit in with this theme of openness. I agree that the folks are likely to react with shock on first hearing, and that itself could yield an issue or two of good stories, as Jim and Maggie battle within themselves on how to react to this new fact of life. However, for the reasons Dudgeon outlined, I feel that eventually they would come to the realization that they've raised themselves a "pack" of basically good kids, who don't take unnecessary chances or go out looking for trouble. We could get a good story out of their realization that a necessary part of parenting involves giving your kids the opportunity to do some flying on their own (in this case, literally) as they earn it, and consider this idea: Instead of damping down the fun, Jim and Maggie would now be able to share in the secret. For ties in with the closeness angle; now the six Powers know something that the rest of the world doesn't know about, for the most part. They'd be able to help run more convincing interference for the Pack's adventures (not "superhero battles"), and there'd be a lot less miscommunication between them. And one thing for sure: the kids would be subjected to a lot less unjust punishment!

Of course, an absolutely vital ingredient to a "Comeback Pack" would be the return of a repaid Friday. The door was clearly left open for this development, and since Friday is part machine, it wouldn't be nearly as preposterous as the typical comic-book

resurrection. Besides, a good deal of the fun of the early run lay in the ability of the Pack to take off to exotic locales in search of adventure, and Friday is vital to that element.

Which leads into my next suggestion. There is a TV show called "Dinosaucers." I won't go into it in too much detail, except for this: It involves a group of kids who (for comedic effect) travel all over the world to various places to have stories. Thus, putting my last two points together, this could provide a new direction for the strip without betraying the original spirit of the series. Jim, Maggie, and Friday taking the Pack off to various distant locales to find remote areas where they can train the kids in the use of their powers, and having things happen to them there without those plots looking forced or dragged-in.

I also believe that further new directions can be obtained through further contact with the Kymellians, through the angle: when Whitley and Friday first came to Earth, they were supposed only to observe. The Kymellians didn't want to make contact with Earth people, but with first the Snarks' attack and then Whitley's sacrifice, matters were taken out of their hands. Now, in the Pack, they have something that's neither human nor Kymellian—something that's completely new in the universe. If they really are the scientifically-based civilization that they seem to be, I can't see them being able to resist learning more about the Pack. (And I have the feeling that their government would be considerably more trustworthy than the one on Earth.)

So there you have it: a group of new ideas, conceived not just on the grounds of what I personally would like to see, but with an eye toward what would make a series of good, viable stories. I'd like to encourage any other club member who think they can see good immediate directions for the Pack to take to offer their own suggestions...because it's a shame for the POWER PACK to be a bigger financial success and a weaker book creatively than ever.

Roy Veldboom
1160 High Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Thank you for the cogent presentation of your ideas, Roy. You have moved us, and your heartfelt wishes for the future of the Pack are very close to ours. But it remains to be seen whether or not the Pack can survive what INFERNO has done to them, or if they will be too drastically altered beyond the shape of these ideas. For instance—there has been much talk in certain circles of sending the kids to Xavier's School. While this was always brushed off in the past, it certainly looms as a real possibility now.

Dear Power People,

POWER PACK is the greatest comic in the universe. As a kid, I can relate to how the kids feel. But I found a mistake. In POWER PACK #33 last page, last panel, the father says they are grounded for 2 weeks, but in P.P.#36, pg. 11, panel four, Alex says that they were grounded for one week. For pointing out this mistake, do I get a No-Prize?

Well, PLEASE have more of Frank and

more challenges with the Master Mold. So, until Frank stops saying "OBOY, my favorite," Make Mine Marvel!

Mike Kosak
58 Glendale Road
Northampton, MA 01060

It seems timely to point out once again that in order to qualify for a No-Prize (that elusive and much-coveted Marvel non-treasure) you not only must point out an apparent boo-boo, but you must find a logical explanation for it as well. Keep on trying. No Prizes are rare, but are attainable. As for adopting Frank—he's already got his own Fantastic parents!

To the People of POWER PACK,

First off, I have to say how much I really enjoy POWER PACK. It is a truly magnificent comic and one of the best on the market; at least in my opinion. The characters are realistic and intriguing thanks to Louise's excellent talents and imagination. Bog's artwork is remarkable, capturing the kids' countenances and personalities perfectly. (But I was impressed by Sol Velluto's work in ish #39). All in all, POWER PACK is wonderful. I thank you for it and hope that you all keep up the great work.

But I do have a few comments about the Pack's powers. I think that the kids are not using their powers to their fullest potential. If they would recall their first meeting with the Snarks and Whitley on the beach way back in Issue #1, perhaps they would gain some helpful acumen. Katie should be able to teleport. Julie should be able to create a density force field. Jack should be able to create a gravity field and thus, degenerate things without touching them. And Alex should be able to use the energy power to not just create power balls from stored energy, but energy in beam form as well. I am sure there are many other things that their powers can do that they are yet not aware of.

Enough on the kids' powers. What lies ahead in the Pack's future? Will there be any more Snark or Kymellian stories? Will there be any more team-ups with other Marvel heroes? I hope so. I also, like everyone else who reads POWER PACK, want to see more of Franklin.

Well, whatever is planned for the Pack, I'll be sure to be there.

John P. Killinger
538 E. Brookridge
Green Bay, WI 54301

THE MELANIE DARRELL RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

Who is the snottiest super-villain POWER PACK has ever had to face?

THE BOOGYMAN!

Finally note—please send your "Pix" submissions in black and white only, or they can't be printed, no matter how good they are!

STAN LEE presents:

POWER PACK

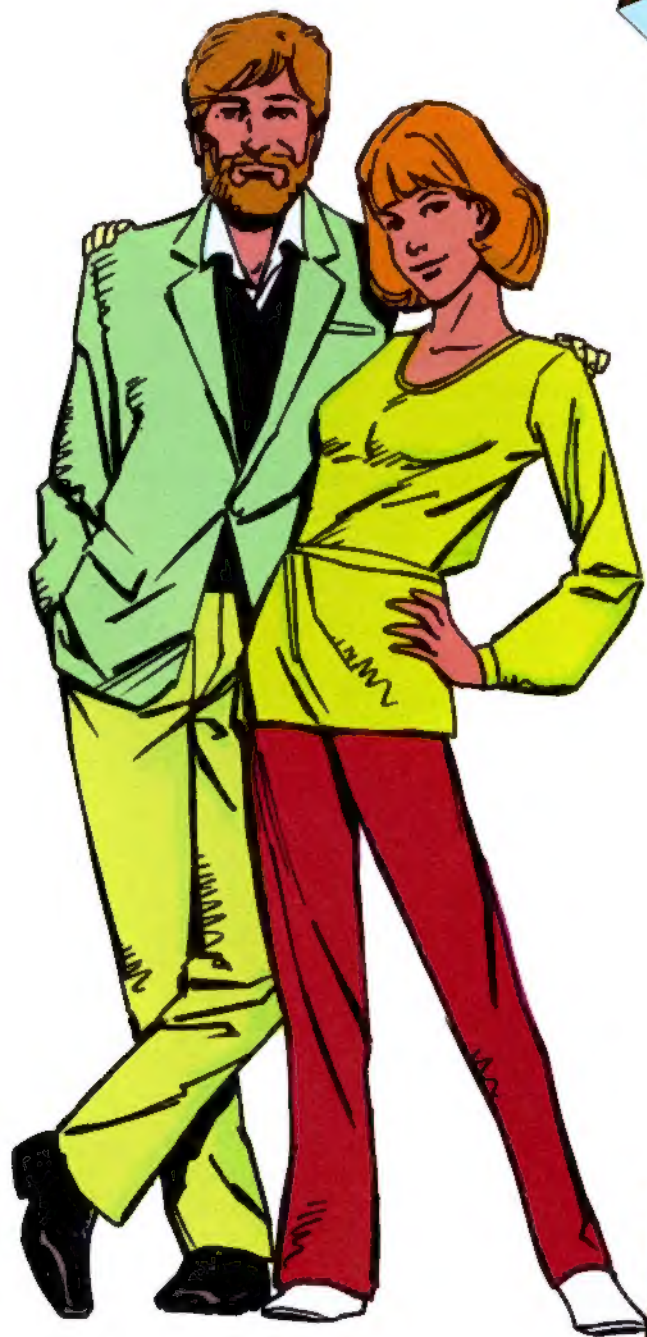
Power Pack's Parents

It began innocently enough, with a hope and a dream. Dr. James Power, a physicist, was working at Carmody Research laboratories. There he discovered a means of converting matter to anti-matter. Jim was ecstatic. Here was a revolutionary source of limitless energy to be used for peaceful purposes. What a gift to bequeath mankind!



But, unknown to Jim, certain aspects of the matter conversion physics were not fully understood, and, when tested, his prototype converter would set off a chain reaction sure to destroy the world!

Even as his illustrator wife, Margaret, completed a Science Fiction painting to meet a publisher's deadline, her husband's labors unwittingly set the stage for a true science catastrophe.



POWER PACK



Whitey

THE KYMELLIANS

Enter the Kymellians, an ancient race of exceptional psionic and mechanical abilities, great builders, born with the potential to control aspects of gravity, energy, mass, and velocity. In ages past a great Kymellian scientist had discovered the annihilation effect on their planet and built a converter, similar to the one Jim Power just constructed. When tested, the Kymellian converter tragically destroyed the Kymellian home world. Fortunately, however, because of the many spacefarers among them, the race survived.

Aelfyre Whitemane was a Kymellian xenologist studying alien races in our time. The humans of Earth were his first assignment, and he grew enamored of his subject world because of the beauty of its literature. When in his studies he chanced upon Jim Power's matter converter, he grew frantic, remembering well the catastrophe his own race had suffered. Aelfyre sent a message begging his people for permission to warn Jim Power, despite Kymellian laws forbidding interference in the affairs of an alien world.



Byrel
(Whitey's Father)



Kofi



Yrik
(Kofi's Father)

NEXT ISSUE: *the substance* **INFERNO**



BOGDANOV - TRAKA

MINUTEMEN



Syl3nt Bob